Crime-1936

General

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

JAN 20 1936

GEOGRAPHY OR JUSTICE?

"We are not going to let the south dump their criminals on us," asseverates Judge Raymond MacNeille of the Philadelphia bench in sentencing two Petersburg, Va., Negroes to 10 to 20 years each for robbery.

This newspaper agrees with the Tarboro Southerner that the question of "Who Dumped First?" is conclusively answered by such recent examples of Yankee handiwork as Charlotte's $150,000 mail robbery, put across handsomely by the Terrible Touhys of Chicago but finally messed up by a Southern officer, Detective Chief Littlejohn of Charlotte; or the Battleboro bank robbery staged by an escaped alumnus of Atlanta federprison who got h' early schooling in New York.

But this citing of examples, the Commonwealth believes, is simply answering the judge in his own language, a vernacular smelling strongly of the meanness, the bigotry, and the sectionalism which are not always absent from the judicial mind and which lead the public to suspect that courts sometimes punish for vengeance instead of correction.

Now crime is one thing, punishment another and geography a third. That the Negroes came from the south does not lessen or magnify their crime, as the average person sees it— although of course, to a judge it might. So, when the narrowest, the most bestial sort of provincialism injects itself into a sentence from the bench, we get the answer, not so eloquently to the question of who dumped first, as to why the people's confidence in its judiciary is not flourishing with a precisely tropical luxuriance. — Scotland Neck Commonwealth.

Burlington, N. C. Times
February 12, 1936

WHAT MAKES A CAUSE CELEBRE?

A CURIOUS commentary on that emotional hysteria or that lack of the same on the part of the articulate public which either makes some grim and pressing social, political or economic scandal into a headline feature demanding immediate reform—or which fails utterly to be flagellated in any way about it—is offered by the publication in The Nation of the FERA report on the silicosis disaster at Vanetta, W. Va., near the site of the notorious Gauley Bridge, a year and a half before anything whatever was done about it, and before the mass tragedy of that tunnel construction was revealed to the public.

In that year and a half, the public—that great warm sentimental tail-wagging puppy of sentimentality which will take anything to heart that "it's a mind to"—made an international humanitarian issue once more out of Tom Mooney, once more out of the Scottsboro Negroes, for perhaps the 100th time out of the plight—real and false—of any number of textile strikers, even out of the "Burlington Dynamiters" and to a major extent out of the invasion of Ethiopia by Italy.

But it knew nothing about this silicosis slaying of hundreds of unprotected workmen, and it negligently read and passed over any number of episodes of man's brutality to man in the shape of social injustices, homicides, capital-labor warfare and the grinding of the economic heel deeper in to the tenant farmer's neck. Above all, it read that some 36,000 people died, victims of automobiles—and it could scarcely raise a jaded yawn at that terrible news.

Why is it that seven Negroes are sentenced to die for assault on two women pretty authentically identified as prostitutes, and the liberals of the world go flamingly to battle for them—and yet the cremation of 20 of their brothers through sheer carelessness and shiftlessness of Alabama prison officials and camp guards creates scarcely a ripple? Vastly more horrible, wasn't it?

Why is it that the imprisonment of one man for nearly 20 years on the uncertain charge that he dynamited a street in San Francisco that killed a dozen people or so is of so much more importance than revelations that the state of North Carolina punishes chain-gang convicts indirectly by amputating their legs when they 'don't behave?' The one stirred a controversy that has lasted at white heat for two decades; the other engendered dispute and a demand for reform that lasted less than a month.

It just seems that out of the welter of yearly incidents of torture and brutality, of aggression and rapine, of ruthless violation of the rights of others, of exploiting the weak, of plundering and pillaging and merciless strife—some few episodes strike the popular fancy and become cause celebres of labor or criminal or economic or political history. Other episodes, perhaps vastly more important and far-reaching, happen and are promptly forgotten; and their victims languish and die, unknown.

The only way to keep injustice and inhumanity and mundane savagery continually before the public, and to lead the public in demand for reform, is through the white-hot glare of publicity coupled with the determined leadership of genuine reform blocs. The public's spontaneous indignation accomplishes little; it may mouth of vengeance and justice for the vicious—but in another week it has forgotten all about it.

That is why such personalities as Senator Gerald Nye, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Dr. Frank Graham, Senator George Norris and their idealistic hosts of social-minded individualities keep alive flaming issues that demand change. It is their duty not to let righteous indignation and a clamor for reform die; and they see their duty and do it.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 8, 1936

The Sore Spot

The Tennessee Interracial Commission, an organization whose purpose is to foster better relations between whites and negroes, announces that a thorough study should be made in 1936 to determine the cause of the state's high homicide rate. The commission produces many facts and figures to substantiate what everybody already knows, that Tennessee ranks much above the national average in its killings, stabbings, cuttings and homicides generally.

One would assume that the aim of the commission in pursuing its study would be to show that better relations between the whites and negroes would help to solve the problem. One difficulty about all outfits of this sort is that they travel on a single track.

It so happens that the problem is a very practical one, quite apart from the ordinary problem that might respond to educational means. The criminal who goes out in the dead of night and sticks a gun in the ribs of his victims is not very much concerned about the ethics of the thing, nor does he have much regard for any brotherhood of man business.

What we need in Tennessee is a tightening up by juries on criminals. The parole system ought to be abolished. Criminals should know that when a jury brings in a verdict of 10 years, it means 10 years. The certainty of punishment, combined with the removal of the criminal from social contact, would do more to curtail criminal activities than all the education that it would be possible to give. The coddling of criminals might be worth while in isolated cases, but it has no place in a war on crime.

Strict enforcement of the law is the solution.

Rats —Spang

SALISBURY, N. C.
POST

JUL 12 1936

WHICH WAY IS MORE HUMANE?

Friday was "black Friday" for 10 persons in eight states. Five white men and five colored men, all convicted of murder, paid the supreme penalty for their crimes.

North Carolina furnished the most dramatic execution as Henry Grier, colored, was carried to the electric chair and the current applied. A few hours earlier he had tried to commit suicide by throwing himself over a 20-foot wall to the concrete below. His lips were cut and bleeding, both wrists broken, his body bruised, but his hurts were treated, and then he was electrocuted.

Three persons were hanged in Louisiana; another met death by a firing squad in Utah; another was gassed to death in Arizona; and the others died by hanging or the electric chair.

The stories do not make pleasant reading, but it is interesting to note the methods used in executing condemned criminals.

In this state we outlawed the noose and installed the electric chair. That instrument of death has given way to the lethal gas chamber, except in the cases of men previously sentenced to die in the chair. The gas chamber has been severely criticized because of the apparent torture a man undergoes before he meets death. In one instance, it took 15 minutes to complete the job. The electric chair does its work in two to four minutes.

The Utah plan seems a bit faster than either. A firing squad of six men—one of whom shoots a blank cartridge—bang away at the heart of the blindfolded victim. No one knows whose gun bears the blank, but the execution is swift and certain.

The noose is still used in many places and seems effective enough.

With all these methods, though, capital punishment does not seem to be meeting with the results anticipated. The murderer knows that the chances are highly in his favor that he will escape tye necessity of having to pay the death penalty. Our laws, our courts, public opinions and sentiment, and many other factors enter the case.

However, for those who do have to pay the penalty, the most humane method available should be used. What that is, we do not hazard a guess. Experts in crime and punishment have studied the question, and they are divided in their opinions.

We are strongly of the opinion, though, that it need not require 15 minutes in which to break the thread of life.

Williamston, N. C. Enterprise
August 4, 1936

Punishment for Gamblers

Chapel Hill Weekly

Let some policeman, who had much better be occupied in the pursuit of thieves and reckless drivers, arrest a group of poor Negroes engaged in a crap game, and the Negroes are brought into court and either fined or sentenced to the roads. And all the while well-to-do white people are gambling to their hearts' content, in absolute safety, in their homes and clubs and on their golf courses.

Commenting on the court proceedings in Durham on Monday of this week, the Greensboro News says:

"Sixteen Negro defendants were convicted of week-end gambling; skin, craps, and th like, we suppose. Two were given road sentences; 14 were fined $5 each and costs. No white man was tried for playing dime or two-bit syndicate golf at Hope Valley or Hillandale, and no warrant was issued for any member of the Thursday Afternoon Bridge Club charging her with indulging in two to ten cent contract . . .

"None, we think, would advise a complete disregard of the North Carolina gambling statutes against gambling; but there is more inequality of enforcement in this connection than in any other of our acquaintance. 'Numbers' flourish, slot machines rattle and clang. Reputable folks bet on anything and everything. But 999 cases out of every 1,000 tried in the police court result in taking money from those who have least. The moral uplift is just about negligible."

The way in which the poor and friendless are punished for private gambling is a shame and a disgrace. For the public authorities to act against professional gambling joints is proper enough; for policemen to snoop around and arrest petty gamblers while not interfering with gamblers in the "best circles" is a rotten business. There is plenty of work for the police to do in protecting life and property, and they had much better occupy themselves with that than with the persecution of the humble.

Crime-1936

Georgia.

The Dear Old Chain Gangs

To the Editors of The Nation: Nation

Reading the very misleading article, Men in Chains, in *The Nation* for November 13, I am writing to say that I have lived more than five years in Georgia and have driven my own car all over the state and have often observed convicts employed on farms. I have never seen any indications that they were unhappy or dissatisfied. Quite the contrary. The convict labor of Georgia is happy and well cared for. I have never found such a democratic spirit in any state as here in Georgia, where we often stop to speak to the convicts, or they wave to us. Vol. 142, no. 3678

I saw a convict plowing a farm quite alone the other day, with no guards at all. I have often seen them working with farmers. They had no chains on, and with one or two exceptions I have never observed a chain on any of them.

I cannot believe that the conditions described by Myra Page are truthful, because the whole spirit of Georgia is entirely different. 1-1-36

I am a member of the Women's National Press Club of Washington, D. C., and was formerly on the staff of the Washington *Post* and the Washington *Herald*, and have contributed to many other newspapers and magazines. I am now director of journalism at Brenau College. New York

Gainesville, Ga., November 12 G. R. Brigham

Abuse of Suspect by City Officer Charged in Superior Court Trial

Constitution 1-23-36

Policeman's Partner Says Alleged Negro Burglar Was Beaten Because Patrolman "Thought He Was Lying, I Guess"; Bridges Warns Department.

Atlanta, Ga

Policemen who abuse prisoners in their custody will be dealt with summarily by the police committee of city council, Councilman G. Dan Bridges, chairman of the committee, warned last night as police department operations continued to hold the spotlight of public interest.

The Bridges warning was issued after it was disclosed in testimony in Fulton county superior court that a negro prisoner had been so badly beaten that other officers dispatched him to Grady hospital for treatment. Judge John D. Humphries, before whom the testimony was given, assailed the practice, and ordered a transcript of his statement dispatched to the committee chairman.

James Meredith, negro, was on trial as a burglary suspect, and it was alleged at the trial that Patrolman E. T. Payne beat the negro up while Patrolman C. W. Cartwright was driving. Cartwright was asked why Payne administered the beating and replied, "Because Payne thought he was lying, I guess."

Negro Is Freed.

The negro was released by the jury after about ten minutes' deliberation and Judge Humphries delivered his attack on such practices. Payne was not in court and did not testify.

Bridges said the police committee would consider the case and warned that force in excess of the amount needed to protect officers and retain prisoners in custody would be dealt with severely.

Other major developments during the day in the police committee probe of alleged inefficiency, connivance with underworld characters and other irregularities, which were charged by the November-December grand jury included:

1. Proposal by Councilman John A. White, fourth ward, for creating the office of director of public safety to supersede Chief of Police T. O. Sturdivant. White asserted he had the opinion of the late City Attorney James L. Mayson and of City Attorney Jack C. Savage that the council could create the office.

Key Approves With Proviso.

2. Favorable reaction from Mayor Key to White's suggestion with a proviso that the director be given supervision of the fire department, building inspectors and superintendent of electrical affairs department. The Key proposal would require charter changes.

3. Suspension of two radio patrol officers, W. L. Butler and F. O. Bishop, for two days for failing to answer a radio call until it had been sent out the third time. This is subject to ratification by the police committee.

4. Announcement by Bridges that the police committee and the special police investigating committe of the November-December grand jury will meet some time today to discuss departmental matters with a view of placing in the hands of the police committee evidence on which the grand jury based its criticisms of the department.

5. Reiteration by Bridges that the police committee intends to delve thoroughly into grand jury charges and all other complaints against the department with a view of correcting evils and bringing the department up to a higher standard of efficiency.

6. W. S. "Yank" Venable, 27, alleged lottery operator, was lodged in the city jail on a charge of suspicion as Mayor Key continued his fact-finding campaign to learn how the lotteries are conducted and to "get the big squeezes." Venable refused to talk.

George Finch, Venable's attorney, charged last night that he had not been allowed to confer with his client and said that he had filed a writ of habeas corpus. Hearing on the writ has been set for 9 o'clock this morning before Judge John D. Humphries in superior court.

White's Proposal.

White's proposal to create the post of director of public safety was prepared by Savage and calls for a salary of $6,000 a year, establishes the director as the executive and administrative head of the police department with complete and exclusive control of the personnel, except that charges against policemen must be tried by the police committee.

The mayor and council would select the director, who would serve a six-month probation period, but thereafter would hold the post for terms of four years. All officers of the department would retain their present grades and ranks unless removed for cause and that through concurrence of the police committee.

"Only through adoption of some such ordinance can the police department be made efficient," White said. "Under the present set-up, we cannot place responsibility. That is emphasized by the conflicting testimony as to who ordered the release of three impounded automobiles to Ralph Owens, alleged bootlegger.

Systen. Worked Elsewhere.

"The system has worked in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati and other large cities, and it will work here. My ordinance can be passed now and without any charter changes."

Mayor Key contends that when a director of public safety is named he should have supervision of all public safety departments and that a charter amendment will be required. He, however, has favored that setup before.

Time for the joint conference between the police committee and the grand jury committee had not been decided upon last night pending the convenience of grand jury members. It will be held at the police station under present plans. Councilman Alvin L. Richards, vice chairman of the police committee, is arranging details.

Resumption of the hearings by the police committee tonight or Friday was seen last night as it developed that the group may be provided definite information, names of witnesses and the line of questions which it should ask at the conference. Bridges and other members feel that the probe should be pushed promptly to conclusion.

Mayor Key will appear probably at the next hearing of the committee.

"I think I'll have a few things to tell the committee not only about the police department but about other law enforcement agencies," Key said yesterday.

Separate Probe Veto Seen.

Veto of a council resolution establishing an independent committee to probe police matters is expected today or Friday at the latest. The mayor has indicated he will not approve it, but will leave the investigation of the "police department to the police committee, where it rightfully and legally belongs."

Text of the transcript which Judge Humphries will send to Bridges regarding the beating of the negro follows:

"I am greatly surprised at this situation. These defendants come into court often and claim that officers have beat them up, but I have never believed that they did it. I think most of them are lying when they say the officers beat them up, but when a happening like this is brought out, it is just an excuse for giving people a chance to claim that they beat them unnecessarily, and when a thing like this happens it is a great hindrance to the enforcement of the criminal laws. No police officer has a right to strike a man because he thinks he is lying. No police officer has a right to use any force on a man other than is necessary to detain him when he arrests him—to use the necessary force to keep him in custody when he arrests him. It has got to be reasonable force and not unreasonable force, and it appears from this officer's testimony that this boy was so badly beaten up that the lieutenant, when he got to the station house, sent him to the hospital, and he was beaten up so badly that they could not even bring him back from the hospital. They left him in the hospital for treatment, and he doesn't know whether he was there for a day or two days, or three days.

Cartwright Testimony.

Mr. Cartwright, I think you said when you were on the stand, that you kept the prisoner in the car and sent your partner back into the store to see if another person was there. Did your partner take this man back in the store, by himself, out of your presence, and when he got him in there did he beat him up.

A. No, he was out in the car out of my presence. I went back in the store and I left him outside in the car.

The Court: This beating is so inexcusable that I am obliged to take judicial notice of it, and I am obliged to say that the fact that these things happen occasionally is the greatest hindrance to the enforcement of the law, because it gives others the excuse to claim that the officers beat them up when they did not do it. It has gotten to be the general contention that the officers beat them with a rubber hose, or struck them with a billy when it is usually not so. Officers don't usually imposed on their prisoners; they usually treat them in a humane manner, but occasionally a thing happens like this which is inexcusable, and that gives an excuse to these others to claim they were beat up, and it is a great hindrance to the enforcement of our criminal laws.

This beating was inexcusable, and I am going to ask the reporter to copy that part of this evidence with reference to the beating of this man, and send it to Mr. Bridges, the chairman of the police committee, with my strictures on that unnecessary beating, and let the police committee investigate that matter, and take steps that will in the future prevent unnecessarily harsh treatment of men who have been taken into custody.

DISCUSSES CHAINGANG CRUSADE

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Reading the very misleading article, Men in Chains, in The Nation, I am writing to say that I have lived more than five years in Georgia and have driven my own car all over the state and have often observed convicts employed on farms. I have never seen any indications that they were unhappy or dissatisfied. Quite the contrary. The convict labor of Georgia is happy and well cared for. I have never found such a democratic spirit in any state as here in Georgia, where we often stop to speak to the convicts, or they wave to us. Macon, Ga. 1-28-36

I saw a convict plowing a farm quite alone the other day, with no guards at all. I have often seen them working with farmers. They had no chains on, and with one or two exceptions I have never observed a chain on any of them.

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I am a member of the Women's National Press Club of Washington, D. C., and was formerly on the staff of the Washington Post and the Washington Herald, and have contributed to many other newspapers and magazines. I am now director of journalism at Brenau College.

Gainesville, Ga. G. R. BRIGHAM.

Policeman Knocks Out Man's Eye

Officer Thornton Is Suspended From Duty

CHARGE OF MAYHEM

Placed Against Him For Brutally Beating Prisoner

Officer S. L. Thornton was suspended from the city police force Monday following an investigation of his brutal treatment on February 13 of a Negro prisoner, Richard Tilson, in which the policeman is charged with knocking out the man's left eye, and several teeth, with his club. The investigation was held in police court before Recorder Mercer Jordan.

Officer Thornton was promptly suspended by Captain John Clancy, and it was further stated by the Police Chief executive that he would recommend the policeman's dismissal.

In the trial Monday morning Tilson was charged with disorderly conduct, drunk on the street, attempting to cut a police officer, and resisting arrest.

When Tilson, who had remained in jail since the difficulty, was brought into court, his face and mouth showed unmistakable signs of the merciless beating and his right eyeball was missing.

White Jury Railroads Negro Worker

Chain Gang Sentence Given Albert Mills in Atlanta Court

By Mary Mack

ATLANTA, Ga., April 19.—Because he had a crossed eye, Albert Mills, Negro worker, was sentenced to ten to fifteen years on the chain gang by an all white Fulton Superior Court Jury, here yesterday.

B. W. Durham, white East Point merchant, was shot and robbed of one dollar December 3, 1935, by a masked Negro bandit. Three months later, Durham, who said the bandit had a "bad eye," met Mills on a street in East Point and called the police, claiming that Mills (who has a crossed eye) was the masked bandit.

Mills denied having committed the crime. Reliable character witnesses, in court, testified to Mills' good character, but the all-white jury believed the prosecution, which had as its only argument the fact that Mills has a crossed eye and Durham's claim that the masked bandit who robbed him had a crossed eye.

The attorney for the defendant brought out the fact that many Negroes in East Point and Atlanta have crossed eyes and, according to the prosecution, then each could be accused of the crime.

Protests against this serious miscarriage of justice should be sent to Governor Talmadge, Atlanta, Georgia, and to Assistant Solicitor Andrews, prosecuting attorney, Atanta, Georgia. The railroading of this innocent Negro worker to ten or fifteen years in the hell of a Georgia chain-gang must not be overlooked by all true lovers of liberty and justice.

Brutality at Georgia's 'Devil's Island' Camp Charged by Five Convicts Recaptured Here

On Way to Prison Commission, They Say, Displaying Numerous Welts.

Captured after an early morning bloodless gun battle with two Atlanta policemen, a quintet of escaped convicts from the state highway prison camp near Soperton yesterday described the penal colony as a "Georgia Devil's Island" and declared that they had escaped only to come to Atlanta to report conditions to the state prison commission and Governor Talmadge.

Displaying welts about their arms and legs which they said were the results of beatings from prison guards and from long hours in the "stocks" the prisoners said that they overpowered a guard, stole his shotgun, later stole a motor car from a negro and intended to surrender to the prison commission.

The two policemen encountered the convict band near Georgia and Capitol avenues shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning and one of the officers, Patrolman E. T. Payne, narrowly escaped death when a shotgun volley fired by one of the convicts passed a foot over his head.

The prison camp in Truetlen county is under command of Warden C. A. Jacobs. There in recent months the highway department has concentrated what it considers the most dangerous of its convicts. Several months ago when the penitentiary committee of the general assembly reported to the Governor on conditions in the Heard county camp the highway department transferred a number of long-termers to Soperton, including Walter Roe, a negro who figured prominently in the 1934 gubernatorial campaign.

Three of the convicts captured here early yesterday are white men. The other two are negroes. All are serving long terms.

The men are Frank Wadkins, alias Willie Adkins and Roy Carter, alias Leonard Keith, both serving life terms; James McLaurin, alias Bill Byrd, serving sentences totaling from 12 to 28 years, all white men; James Thomas and Paul Smith, negroes, both serving 20 years.

A sixth prisoner, a negro, who fled with the quintet was reported captured near Lawrenceville.

Earlier Gun Battle.

Gwinnett county officers reported here yesterday that they had engaged in a gun battle with six men in a car late Wednesday night and that they lost track of the men after a 10-mile chase near Tucker. It was shortly after this chase that the negro was taken near Lawrenceville.

Patrolmen Payne and Paschal received a lookout notice for the band shortly after they came on duty at midnight.

About 1 o'clock they noted the car load of white men and negroes at Capitol and Georgia avenues. The men drove off as the patrolmen approached them for questioning. The policemen followed the group, overtaking them at Fulton and Frazier streets, where the convict car struck a depression in the streets and careened into a store operated by W. B. Chandler.

Storekeeper Aids.

As the police drove up the convicts opened fire, Payne and Paschal reported. Chandler, who lives in the rear of the store, was awakened by the shots and he joined in the battle. After an exchange of several volleys the convicts surrendered.

McLaurin, alias Byrd, said that he escaped the chain gang last year and that he voluntarily surrendered to the prison commission last fall to complete his sentence.

"They treat us like slaves down in Truetlen county," he told the police. "If we tell the inspectors of the treatment we are punished still worse. I wish we could get to the prison commission and the Governor to tell them of conditions."

Wadkins told reporters that the men were beaten with a stuffed hose and that they were put in stocks, sometimes their legs in one stock and their arms in another.

The negroes said little but showed welts on their arms and legs.

All said that they did not want to return to Soperton but despite their protests were returned early last night. The guards they had been talking about were in charge of their transfer.

Atlanta Combed For Negro Thugs

ATLANTA, June 28. — (AP) — Under "shoot to kill" orders, police armed with riot guns searched unsuccessfully today for a trio of negro thugs wanted for a sudden outbreak of shooting, slugging and robbery.

Descriptions given by various victims of their assailants tallied, police said.

Principal victim was J. Floyd Sasser, 40-year-old bakery employe, who was shot in the chest while preparing to drive his automobile from in front of his home into a garage.

Asked by one of two negroes for a match, Sasser reached toward a pocket. Cursing, one negro drew a gun and fired. The bullet struck Sasser in the right side of the chest, but was deflected by a rib.

A third negro was seen to join the other two when they fled after the shooting. Doctors pronounced Sasser's condition good.

Other incidents charged by police to the trio included the forcible robbery of a young couple; the slugging with pistol butts and fists of two other robbery victims, and the robbery of another man.

A SHAMEFUL SIGHT

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

One of the most shameful and barbarous sights, in this, our fair city of Macon, Ga., is Negro girl prisoners sweeping the alleys. Recently I saw three Negro girl prisoners sweeping Wall street alley between Cherry and Mulberry streets behind Dempsey Hotel. This does not speak well for Macon.

All law violators should be punished, and they must be punished, if society would be protected. But, I feel, however, that some special provision should be made for the punishing of girls and women.

I therefore sincerely pray, in the name of girls and women, in the name of this our fair city of Macon, in the name of justice, in the name of society and in the name of Jesus Christ that this awful act can be and will be remedied.

REV. J. H. KURTZ.

Macon.

Crime - 1936

Georgia.

Thomasville, Ga., Press
May 8, 1936

Another horrible crime was cast upon the Pavo district of this county Saturday night and Sunday, when a white man was murdered, another white man cut up and two or three negro fights took place, and the drink crazed negro instigator of the disturbance was lynched by an infuriated mob. Details of the gastly affair were so revolting as to reflect on any community of innocent good people who are helpless when some fiend invades their surroundings and starts something, kindles the uncontrolable flame of passion and prejudice. The courts had just completed the legal trial, conviction and sentencing to life a white man and white woman of that community for the gastly murder of the woman's husband and now right on the heels of it here comes something even worse than the well murder. Those who know the peeople of the Pavo district will vouch for the statement that some of the best citizens of the state make up that community, yet this reflection has been cast upon them as a whole. The well murder case was the reult of immoral character of a man and woman, and the murder and lynching case the result of uncurbed flow of mean whiskey among a dangerous class of irresponsible people that infest all sections alike these days.

An Open Letter to Law-Abiding Atlanta

Atlanta World 8-26-36

In a front page editorial in yesterday's Atlanta Daily World, under the caption: "Crime! Crime! Crime! Crime!" the management of this paper launched an endless campaign against crime in our fair city where there are more colored colleges and perhaps more churches than any other one city in America!

Thus far this year there has been a total of 68 colored homicides, practically all of which were caused by colored persons; recently in the short space of 24 hours there occurred a total of four colored homicides—three cases classed as murders and one as justifiable homicide. In 1934 there occurred in COLORED Atlanta a total of 135 homicides; in 1935 there were 125 homicides, practically all of which were caused by colored persons.

In a news story on this page Chief Sturdivant is quoted as saying that colored persons are involved in over 60% of the crimes in Atlanta. This is saying that we are costing the city as far as police expense is concerned far too much in view of the fact that we make up only about 33% of the total population. There are numerous causes for this situation which we shall not discuss at this time. However, we do not mean to infer that laxity on the part of our Chief of Police is responsible. We have faith in him.

Chief Sturdivant's statement is a challenge to the self-respecting and law-abiding citizens of Atlanta and especially the colored preachers, presidents and teachers at our schools and all others who should be interested in changing this increasingly menacing situation. The crime situation here should not go unchallenged. The criminal and potential criminal must go and we are calling on all those opposed to the disgraceful crime rate among colored people here to join us in our efforts. The exact remedy is not clear to us at this time but there must be one. Write us your suggestion and let us made Atlanta a better and safer place for colored people to live.

Atlanta is a great city; she has produced some great leaders but she also has and is still producing too many COLORED MURDERERS—men and women who are ready to flash a switch-blade or pistol at the slightest provocation where another person of color is concerned. This will get nobody anywhere; it must be stopped; more murderers must sit in the electric chair!

We are beginning an exhaustive statistical research on crime both here and in other cities corresponding to Atlanta in size. Before we are through we hope to have some constructive recommendations to make, but in the meantime, you contribute your part. Give us your opinion. The colored crime rate must DECREASE; it is all out of proportion to the total population.

Policeman Barrett Who Kicked Woman Prisoner Given Short Suspension

Captain of Police Clancy Recommended his Dismissal But Mayor Gamble Thought Action Too Drastic and Lets Officer Off With Reprimand

Officers W. V. (Jumbo) Barrett was suspended from the police force Tuesday and recommended for dismissal by Captain John J. Clancy, superintendent of police. This action was taken against officer Barrett for inhumane treatment of a colored woman prisoner, Elouise Rivers, whom he was reported to have kicked and otherwise manhandled while arresting her Tuesday morning following a disturbance she and her sister were creating in a restaurant on West Broad street, near Mims.

According to eye witnesses of the affair, when Officer C. E. Hodges arrived at the scene of the trouble the Rivers woman ran into a house on Mims street, pursued by the officer. Officer Hodges caught the wmoan in the house and she resisted arrest. Several Negro men, seeing that the woman was giving trouble, went to the officer's assistance in order that she might not be roughly handled by the officer. The officer, with the assistance of the two men, had the woman down on the street and well on their way to the gamewell box when Officer Barrett, seeing the disturbance and without ascertaining the trouble, ran up, pushed the men aside and is said to have slapped her and kicked her from that point on to the box.

Observing the three colored men who were in the mix-up, he grabbed one of them and threatened to arrest him when Officer Hodges intervened and told him that the colored men were helping him get the woman under control.

At the trial in police court yesterday morning Officer Barrett denied kicking or otherwise abusing the woman, stating that he only used such methods as were necessary to arrest her.

Policeman Hodges, however, in telling of the occurrence, said that Officer Barrett did kick the woman when he came into the trouble. This was substantiated by several other eye witnesses.

The woman was found guilty of being drunk, and cursing on the street, and second charge, disorderly conduct, biting the arresting officers, and resisting arrest. She was given a sentence of 150 days on the Woman's camp. She was represented by Attorney W. H. Hopkins and Officer Barrett was represented by Attorney L. A. Mills

Officer Barrett's suspension was lifted and he was let off with a mild reprimand by Mayor Gamble who said that Officer Barrett be advised:

that it is always the policy of the police department that officers must avoid anything that approaches abuse or unnecessary severity in handling prisoners, while his motives in this particular case were good, he may have been unnecessarily severe in the assistance rendered to Officer Hodges.

BURY WOMAN BEATEN BY POLICE

No Further Action To Be Taken. Chief Is Quoted As Saying

HOPE REMAINS

Pathos hovered over Atlanta Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock as 27-year old Lillie Strickland, victim of allegedly severe police-beating here Sunday night, August 23, was funeralized at Lincoln View cemetery by the Pollard Funeral home, where the body had remained until time for funeral services in the Pollard chapel after being transferred from the Grady hospital.

Chief among the bereaved of the deceased woman are her 46-year old mother, Mrs. Katie Gamble, of 766 Reed street, southeast, and Royal Kimble, 29, a brother here from Cleveland, Ohio, where he is employed with the Federal Truck Company. They are native Atlantans. Kimble has been stopping with his mother in Summerhill while here, but will leave Thursday at noon for Cleveland to resume his work.

The dead woman's brother, Royal, and several volunteer eye-witnesses to the August 23 incident appeared Tuesday in the office of Chief T. O. Sturdivant for a review of the case, but, according to reports, the police chief told the group that no action would be taken but that if they had any statements to make they were free to make them.

Meanwhile, the Atlanta branch of the NAACP will make a thorough review of the facts in the case before committing itself to any given course of action.

Crime - 1936

Georgia
6

VICTIM SWIMS TO SAFETY TO RELATE EXPERIENCE OF MIDNIGHT "RIDE"

By A STAFF WRITER

In an interview last night Edward V. Toodle, kidnaped and slugged Tuesday midnight by a band of nondescript white men operating under the pretense of being officers of the law, shed new light on the sensational escapade that created quite a bit of alarm here.

Atlanta World 9-24-36

Here is a graphic picture of what transpired in the now widely known case as related to a WORLD reporter by Toodle:

Four white men approached Toodle at his residence above his billiard parlor on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Bell Street at 11:30 or there-abouts on the night of Tuesday, September 22.

The men flashed police badges and apparently were bona fide representatives of the law. The only flaw, according to eye-witnesses and sister of the victim was that one of the men was rather shabbily dressed. Several wore leggings. Showing what was apparently a warrent for the victim, handcuffs were quickly applied and the march back to the streets commenced. Outside on Auburn Avenue were two light cars of well known makes in which sat a total of five more white men.

None of these men are known by Toodle and are perfect strangers to him according to his testimony. The two cars left Auburn Avenue headed, apparently, for the station house on Decatur Street.

The first intimation that things were not on the level occurred to the victim when the machines proceeded to pass the station house and took westward course toward U. S. Route 41 which concurrs with Marietta Street in a northeasterly direction.

Toodle declares that he willingly accompanied the men because he was sure he could make bond or answer with satisfaction any question put to him. The two cars went out route 41 toward Marietta and meanwhile the lone colored passenger was subjected to rebuffs and insults as the abductors started their work of the evening.

The two cars travelled approximately 25 miles northeasterly where they were brought to a standstill. At this point on the Sapp Creek which flows directly northward in Cobb County, beyond Marietta, Toodle was subjected to a terrific series of assaults to the head and body. In a bleeding, torn and delirious condition he was tossed into the stream from the bridge by the band of men. They then took to their automobiles and vanished.

Toodle is able to swim. He swam around aimlessly in the stream until he recovered his bearings and finally reached the eastern shore exhausted completely. It was approximately 2 A. M. Wednesday morning when the man began wandering in the woods and underbush towards Atlanta. He walked most of the 25 miles to Atlanta and was fortunate enough to be picked up near the bridge that spans the Chattahoochee river.

He was carried to a local hospital early in the morning and released Wednesday afternoon after deep lacerations of the scalp had been dressed. Wednesday night his head was bandaged heavily with gauze and oxide.....mute testimony to the rough treatment meted out by his tormentors. He steadfastly claims that the whole thing is a mystery to him and that one of the white men had all the earmarks of a man from the hinterlands who once was a member of some police force. Thus stands developments in one of the most unusual cases to crop in Atlanta for quite a time. Toodle is in no grave danger and stands a good chance for recovery according to physicians.

A REFLECTION ON GEORGIA

Eighty-four of the 159 county jails in Georgia are declared unfit for federal prisoners in a report by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice.

Concurrent with the publication of this report, the American Prison Association, in annual session at Chicago, adopted the abolition of the county jail as a unit of the American prison system as the first objective of an intense drive against crime in the United States.

It is obviously impossible for small county governments to maintain modern jails, but there can be no excuse for some of the structures that pass in Georgia for county jails. Often they consist of only a few rooms, unsanitary and dark, and totally unfitted for the purpose for which they are used.

Generally the food served to the prisoners in these jails is of the poorest quality, what bedding there is is soiled and often filled with vermin, and little or no medical attention is given to the inmates.

In these dark "cells" young first offenders are confined along with hardened criminals. In them the objectionable "kangaroo courts" flourish. Those diseased of mind and body are kept in close contact, sometimes for long periods, with those charged only with minor infractions of the law but who often come from such associations to enter upon a life of crime.

The decent citizens of every county in Georgia should insist that the jail maintained by their county government is a decent place in which to live. It costs but little to provide livable quarters and no more to maintain a clean prison than one that is filthy and so unsanitary as to be a threat to the health of the community.

Many of Georgia's county jails are a reflection upon the good name of the state, and they should be improved, not only because of humanitarian reasons, but as a protection for the young who, because of minor crimes, are arrested and thrown into them.

With Georgia's multiplicity of small counties, it is manifestly impossible for each to support a modern jail, but it would be a simple matter for these counties to form themselves into groups for the purpose of establishing and maintaining centrally located jails. Groups of adjacent counties could establish such jails, and still have their prisoners kept within an hour or less time of the respective courthouses.

Not only could such groups maintain decent, safe and up-to-date jails, but money could be saved by consolidated administration.

Not only as to jails, but in other governmental services — such as public health work, agricultural advancement efforts and similar activities—the smaller counties could secure better and less expensive public service through the formation of co-operative groups.

ASSAULT IS LAID TO NEGRO PRIVATE

Telegraph 10-6-36

White Captain Is Attacked at Fort Benning Camp With Hand Axe

FORT BENNING, Ga., Oct. 5. (AP) Military and civil police are conducting a search today for a Negro army private who is charged with having attacked Capt. Frank S. Bowen, of the 66th infantry, tanks, with a hand axe when the officer in company with Lieut. C. G. Rau, student at the infantry school, surprised him in the Rau quarters. Macon,

Military police called for the aid of civil authorities when it was determined that the Negro had either swam or used a boat to cross the Chattahoochee river into Alabama.

The attack occurred after Captain Bowen and Lieutenant Rau had surprised the Negro in the Rau quarters upon their return from Columbus Friday night. The Negro was captured and was being held by the officers. An axe, with which he was armed, had been taken away from him and placed on a nearby table.

While Lieutenant Rau was notifying military police of the capture, the Negro lunged at Captain Bowen, secured the axe and attacked him. The officer suffered a three-inch gash in the left side of the head. Serious injury likely was prevented when the officer partially warded off the blow with his arm.

Bloodhounds were carried to the military reservation from Columbus and the Negro trailed to the river bank. He has not been apprehended.

4 NEGROES ARE HELD IN BEATING OF MEN

Constitution 12-19-36 Atlanta

SWAINSBORO, Ga., Dec. 18.—(AP) Sheriff P. L. Youmans said tonight he was holding four negroes in connection with severe beatings administered J. P. Walea, farmer and naval stores operator, and his foreman, M. A. Drake, near Garfield yesterday.

Youmans said the two were beaten with a heavy piece of iron when they investigated the cause of the negroes moving from a farm they occupied as tenants.

Walea was still unconscious tonight. The officer reported the negroes held gave varying versions of the cause of the trouble.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 27, 1936

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Think for Yourself, and Let Others Enjoy the Privilege to Do So.—Voltaire.

UNDERTAKER TALKS OF CRIME

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

I have read with much interest, in The Telegraph, that Macon and Bibb county are to have a commission to study crime conditions in our city and county. Better late than never, but studying crime is a big job and stopping crime is a bigger job. As a native of Macon, I have always wanted the city to be a world leader in something, but goodness knows, I never had an idea that it would be a leader in such an industry as "homiciding."

Far be it from me to match my wits and knowledge with the members of the crime commission; but I wonder if they have realized that it is almost weekly that we read accounts in the papers of one Bibb county Negro taking the life of another Bibb county Negro? Have they thought how seldom it is that we read of a white man taking the life of another white man? And the cases are few indeed of Negroes killing white men. A Negro's life in Bibb county is valued too cheaply by other Negroes and by white men. Personally, I cannot help but notice these things. Because of the work I have chosen with which to earn my meat and bread, the above stated facts stare me in the face daily. Now, can Bibb's homicide rate be reduced? Let's see.

It was recently that I was called for jury service in the criminal division of the superior court. Of course I didn't serve on any of the cases being tried. I didn't expect to. There were no homicide cases tried during the week I was there, but there were less serious cases tried in which Negroes were involved. And in each case the jury fixed a sentence of years. I have never heard a homicide case tried; as a matter of fact, I was never in the superior court before in my life until recently. But I have heard proceedings of coroner's inquests concerning murdered Negroes, and it seems to me there are too many justifiable homicide verdicts. And the daily papers tell me of a number of such verdicts in the superior court. This is in no vein of criticism, but I believe that if more bullets and daggers were put in verdicts, there would be less bullets and daggers put in human bodies. Most homicides in Bibb county are among members of my race. They don't fear killing one another because they feel that a justifiable homicide verdict is "just around the corner." But we Negroes know better than to kill a white man. That justifiable homicide verdict isn't around the corner or any other place. The facts I am trying to bring out are these: If a Negro can refrain from killing a white man for fear of swift justice, he can also refrain from killing another Negro, if that justice were sure and swift, and if a white man can refrain from killing another white man because of the same fear, he surely can refrain from killing a Negro, and if juries would hand out sentences for homicides with the same "do or die" spirit with which they dispatch other less serious cases, there would be less homicides.

Not long ago a Negro man stole some cigarettes here in Macon, and ran. He had run only a short distance before he was shot in the back; results—justifiable homicide. I don't believe there is a law anywhere that says it is justifiable to shoot a thief even though he is running with his loot.

No one can deny that most of Bibb's homicides occur among the colored population. Now what creates a desire in these people to become killers in the first place? How might that desire be curbed? Now our commission must knit its collective brow and scratch its collective head. I believe that desire is so deeply rooted through generations until it will take generations to curb. It may not sound logical to you, but I claim that the Negro's desire to kill comes from poor pay, over a period of years and years, for the amount of work the Negro does. Poor pay means poor living conditions and bad environment. Bad environment means bad conduct, and bad conduct begets thieves, robbers, and murderers. And until the Negro's educational standards are raised much higher in Bibb county, we might expect the county's homicide rate to rank among the "best."

I am no sociologist, psychologist, or anything like that. I am just a man whose daily work brings him in contact with murdered men and women.

FRANK J. HUTCHINGS.

Macon.

Crime-1936

Illinois.

BLACK FACE HOAX AGAIN

Numerous have been the times when dastardly crimes committed by white men have been placed at the hands of Negroes, but, from all appearances, perhaps the worst case of this kind is now being unearthed in Chicago where evidence seems to point to a seven-year-old white boy murdering his mother who was sleeping besides him and then claiming that she was killed by a "big black man" while he looked on. Officers are skeptical of the youth's story and are investigating it thoroughly. The lad claims that after watching the "bid black man" kill his mother, he got up out of bed, dressed and went downstairs in the hotel and reported the murder to the hotel authorities. The composure of the boy and other incidents of his story of the murder have led the authorities to question its veracity. It seems incredible that a child of such tender age could have committed such a gruesome crime and it would seem unthinkble that he could have conjured up such a story were it not for the fact that he had probably many times heard of crimes being committed by white persons who laid them at the door of a Negro. The black-face crime story is surely being overpopularized when it has received such a foothold in American criminology that a child scarcely out of the cradle will make use of it to hide his murderous instinct. But this child and others of tender years who have used the black-face story in their wrong doings are not to be wondered at; they are only following in the footsteps of many of their elders who in this so easily accepted story have caused many an innocent Negro to have his life snuffed out by an infuriated mob.

THE CRIME WAVE

Something must be done about the Chicago crime wave. There are reasons for crime waves; something is radically wrong, not only with the law-enforcing agency, but with the people who constitute the citizenship of Chicago. There must be some method of answering the challenge of criminals who are going from place to place murdering women and men.

The black citizenry of Chicago must check up on itself and see what it is we are either doing or failing to do to eradicate these evils. We have a responsibility which must not be shirked. It is no defense for us to put forward the claim that there isn't as much crime among our group as among the white people. This is merely begging the question.

Our duty in this situation is to work out a feasible plan for the elimination of crime among our own criminal element and let the white man do the same with his criminal element. The best way to start is for the decent citizenry to stop tolerating crime and criminals in their immediate communities. This can be accomplished by calling to the attention of the commanding police officer of your respective districts the things to which you object, which may be going on in the community in which you live.

If you cannot get the evils remedied, then write to the chief of police explaining the case to him and at the same time mail an exact copy of your complaint to Mayor Edward J. Kelly. It may here be politely suggested to Commissioner James P. Allman that much of the crime to which we refer could be stopped if there were placed in the detective bureau some young police officers who really want to work, and there are some.

They would be able to apprehend and stop many of the prowlers before they had a chance to prowl. It is not enough to catch the prowler after he has murdered a woman. The prowler should be caught before the murder is committed. Policemen should be selected because of their ability and willingness to serve the taxpayers, rather than political preference.

Crime can be prevented, at least to some extent, by closing crime-breeding institutions. The police charge that Rufo Swain, alias James Gray, who surrendered in the latest murder, was a "policy game operator." When did the police find out Rufo Swain was a policy operator? Did they know him as such before the murder? If so, why didn't they arrest him?

This very statement upon the part of the police re-introduces the discussion that crime institutions which the police appear to know so much about after a crime has been committed should be closed beforehand, thus possibly preventing the crime. The public understands and the criminal understands that so long as the police department is chained hand and foot by the criminals and the vice element, many of whose operations are sponsored by the politicians, the police department can do no effective work in reducing crime.

NINE WHITE POLICEMEN IN CHICAGO SUED FOR BRUTALITY TO PRISONER

Chicago, Aug. 20—(ANP) Nine white police, attached to the 48th Street Police station in the heart of the Southside, were named defendants in a $25,000 brutality suit filed for Orrie Branch by Attorneys George A. Blakely and Sidney A. Jones, representing the Chicago branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

The officers from whom damages are sought include John Dawe, Peter Keeley, Michael Kelly, James Woulfe, Peter [illegible] Kelliker, Thomas Bellos, Frank M. Butcher and Harold E. Colander.

This represents what is called "one of the most shocking exhibits of police brutality ever brought to the attention of the association." On March 11, according to Branch, he was held up by two gunmen. A squad car containing Dawe and Michael O'Connel came by and the bandits opened fire. Branch was shot twice in his right leg and Dawe was wounded in the abdomen. Branch got a motorist to take him to 48th street station where he reported the incident and was accompanied by police to Provident hospital for first aid.

While at Provident, another squad car containing Woulfe, Colander, and others drove up. They arrested Branch, took him to the hospital where Dawe lay and asked the wounded officer if he was one of the men who shot him. When the policeman identified Branch as his assailant, the officers attacked the wounded man and fractured his jaw in two places, according to the complaint. He was carried back to the police station and charged with a breach of the peace which failed to hold up in court and resulted in his freedom.

Branch, 41 years old and married, was a WPA laborer up until the time of his injury.

Crime - 1936

Indiana

GARY, IND.
POST TRIBUNE

FEB 7 1936

Voice of the People

The Gary Post-Tribune invites communications but will not be responsible for utterances made or opinions expressed. Communications should be limited to 250 words and must be signed with the full and correct name and address of the writer as an evidence of good faith but not necessarily for publication, unless in the judgment of the editor the name should be published. The right is reserved to condense any communication exceeding 250 words. Communications which might seem to be libelous, which might create a controversy over religion or religious views or be regarded by the editor as otherwise not proper for publication will not be accepted.

ANOTHER CASE OF POLICE BRUTALITY

Editor Post-Tribune:

Upon reading the story of the Negro who was beaten recently by the police until he was forced to confess to a crime he did not commit, I was reminded of the similar experience that came to one of my sons a few years ago. Young and probably foolish, he was standing at Broadway and 5th avenue with some companions, talking, late one evening. One of our noble policemen accosted the group and one of the boys, not my son, however, made some remark which displeased the officer and he made a rush at the group, my son being the only one he was able to grab.

The boy was taken to the police station, although he protested that he had done nothing to warrant arrest. Without a hearing of any kind he was taken to a room and left, locked in. After a time a burly officer came in and without a word of warning he knocked my son down and proceeded to beat him about the head. This was done, apparently, on general principles as a punishment for being a possible rowdy or gangster. The boy practically lost the hearing of one ear and was so badly bruised about the face that I was shocked upon seeing him the next morning. After a couple of hours some other officer decided that a mistake had been made and the boy was released.

Fortunately I had enough friends in the city government to see that some punishment was meted out to the officer that did the beating, but how about a poor colored man who has no one to help him? He hasn't a chance with a brutal police gang. They can get away with murder in a case like that, and no doubt they do so. We often hear the police defended and they (the police) claim that there is so such thing as the third degree, no beating, but I and thousands of others know differently. There are many decent, honorable and kindly police officers, but there are also many of the sadistic kind that must have their brutality.

I doubt if there is a single police force in the United States, in a city the size of Gary, or half its size, that can honestly claim that they do not have officers that enjoy and practice an unnecessary degree of brutality. I do not believe in gentleness to hardened criminals; let them have what they deserve. But why not have a little scientific investigating under circumstances like those of my son, and the colored man above mentioned, rather than the coarse, bloodthirsty use of the rubber hose, or brass knuckles? —A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN.

URGES 75 RACE POLICE TO AID IN CRIME FIGHT

Recorder

"The murder rate among Negroes in Indianapolis is increasing at a rate which is alarming," declared Frank R. Beckwith, Republican candidate for State Representative at a Republican Women's Tea held last Sunday at 773 Edgemont.

"This", he said, "is due to the difficulty experienced by the courts in ascertaining, sufficient evidence to bring about convictions, as the result, many of our youthful murderers are permitted to escape with a light penalty which tends to encourage the commission of murder and cheapens the value of human life.". "A city the size of Indianapolis should be compelled by law to have at least 400 more police officerh than we now have so that officers than we now have so that in size and above all, colored districts should be patroled by colored police officers."

Under the plan advocated by Beckwith there should be an addition of about 75 Negroes to the Indianapolis Police force in proportion to the population. He also stated that "the children of young divorced couples often grow up without proper parental influence or home environment and that a large majority of youthful criminals have come from such parents who later separated or divorced."

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Katherine Gaddie and sponsored by the North Side Junior Republican club, Mrs. Clara Jones, president.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

APR 17 1936

THE MURDER RECORD

Police records show that since the first of the year eleven Negroes have been killed in Indianapolis and in each case a Negro is accused of the crime. During the same period only one white person has been included in the homicide list and a white man, who pleads self-defense, is charged with that killing. Nearly all the killings resulted from quarrels over trivial matters. A few words led to a shooting or stabbing. Most of those under arrest on homicide charges say that they were drunk and did not realize what they were doing.

Negro educators, lawyers, physicians and others are trying to determine what action they may take to impress upon the fellow-members of their race the unfavorable comment that is likely to come when this record is discussed and pondered. The 1930 census figures showed 320,064 whites in the city There were 43,967 Negroes, of whom 21,263 were males and 22,704 females. With the Negroes constituting a relatively small percentage of the total population, the total of eleven murders to one white murder is all the more of a problem Most of the Negro citizens are industrious and law-abiding, and it is to them that the public will look for the leadership needed to correct the situation. The civil and school cities have recognized the needs of the Negro race, and have provided a high school, a park, a swimming pool, a golf course and other facilities for educational pursuits and recreation. The Negro Y. M. C. A. is ranked as one of the best of its kind in the country. There are many Negro churches and cultural organizations. With these activities apparent, the astonishing increase in the Negro murder rate is difficult to understand.

4 MORE DIE AS MURDER WAVE TIGHTENS GRIP

Jealous Lover Commits Suicide After Slashing Woman's Throat With Razor

MAN, WOMAN SLAIN

Detectives Grill Taxi Driver In Effort To Solve Latest

"Down with the Negro murder rate," is the cry that is roaring through all sections of the city today following three killings and one suicide within the past few days.

Led by The Indianapolis Recorder daily newspapers, city and state officials, civic, religious and social organizations and leading colored and white citizens, called upon those directly in charge with enforcement of the law to take such action as is necessary to reduce the outrageous crime rate among colored people which threatens to smear the fair name of the city in national disgrace.

Apparently after having worked himself into the surging fury of a jealous rage, John Adams, 40, 218½ Indiana avenue, ripped and hacked the throat of his sweet heart, Mrs. Mamie Lewis, 40, 464 Agnes street, with a razor, jabbed her chest thirteen times with a pocket knife, washed his hands of a bloody mess and walked into death at his own hands several hours later. Deputy Coroner A. J. King, called to the home of Mrs. Mary Smith at 719 North Senate avenue where Adams' body was found Sunday afternoon, pronounced him dead by suicide.

Head Nearly Cut Off

Police were called to the Indiana avenue address midnight Friday by Marvin Heflin, 33, Columbia club employe who shared the room with Adams. There they found the nude body of Mrs. Lewis lying on the bed her throat horribly slashed from ear to ear. Beneath the bed, her assailant had placed a small tub which caught a large amount of blood that trickled through the mattress. On a stand near by, officers discovered a small basin filled with bloody water, apparently used by the woman's slayer to wash his hands. Across a chair there hung a small hand towel used by Adams to wipe his hands.

After sending the body to the City morgue on orders of Deputy Coroner Dr. E. R. Wilson, Police began an extensive man hunt for the killer. The finding of his body at the Senate avenue address Sunday revealed that he had rented the room there as Sam Jones about 9 p. m., Friday, several hours before his crime had been discovered.

"Be sure to wake me tomorrow," he asked Charles Ross, another roomer, as he entered his self-chosen death chamber. Raps on his door by Ross on Saturday brought no response, the latter said, and the matter dismissed without concern.

Commits Suicide

Curiosity as to the prolonged seclusion of the new comer however, induced another roomer, Joe Mays, to investigate. Forcing a chair that had been wedged under the knob free, Mays discovered Adams in what appeared to be a sitting posture in bed. On investigation it was discovered he had used his necktie and a piece of insulated wire tied to the top of the bed to hang himself. Several deep gashes were found on his left arm.

Funeral services for Mrs. Lewis were held at the chapel of the Peoples Burial company, Monday afternoon and the body later being shipped to her native home, Glascow, Ky., for burial. She is survived by an estranged husband, Robert Lewis, one son, Elbert Lewis, city; mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. George Mosby, and a daughter, Mrs. Gladys Collins, Glascow, Ky., three brothers, Clem and Fred Mosby, Glascow, and Ben Mosby, Louisville, Ky.

Adams, friends said, was intensely jealous of the woman and only a month ago caused both of them to lose their jobs at the Columbia club following an argument in which he stabbed her twelve times wit han ice pick. He was arrested on a charge of assault and battery, convicted but released upon payment of a light fine.

Mystery Murders

Police are questoining James Medley, 2926 Shriver avenue, taxicab driver, in an effort to solve the mystery that veils the slaying of Phillip McMath, 30, and Mrs. Virginia Fields, 38, at their home, 541 Martindale avenue Sunday night.

Officers found the man with his throat cut and a bullet in the thigh dead on the floor of the living room. The woman, cut about the head and face, her lower lip split, and three bullet wounds in the chest in a dying condition. A short time later she died in the City hospital, mumbling a name doctors guessed to be "Hill," but unable to give the name of her

slayer.

Alva and Ethel Hill, 1426½ Cornell avenue, friends of the dead woman, were questioned but released upon their showing that both were attending a movie theater at the time of the slayings.

Though under constant and relentless fire since his arerst Sunday night, Medley denies he is guilty. Persons who attended the party that preceded the tragedy by several hours, told detectives Medley was a sweetheart of the dead woman and had participated in argument with McMath because of her. McMath and the woman, they said, lived as man and wife.

Officers learned from witnesses that during the party, which featured liquor and a craps game, Medley remarked that he would return and get even, after he claimed to have been "gipped" of some money. Police said a small quantity of "reefers" were found in the house.

Though two wild bullets passed through the walls of a house next door, the occupants said they were too afraid to investigate or call police until some time later. Mrs. Fields, police said had a long record as a "bootlegger" that stretched back into early prohibition days.

Crime - 1936

Kansas.

ATCHINSON, KANS.
GLOBE

JAN 31 1936

QUICK WORK

With the sentencing yesterday of a Kansas city Negro to a life term in the Kansas state prison at Lansing and a Leavenworth Negro to a term of from 10 to 20 years in the same institution, criminals in this section of the country may take notice that the law enforcement agencies of Atchison and Atchison county work relentlessly and rapidly.

The history of the case of these two Negroes is very short as far as Atchison is concerned. Efficiency on the part of the Atchison police led to their arrest when they were trapped in a building here after they had forced entrance and began searching for loot. They admitted the break-in but for one of them it was the only step needed to place him in prison for life.

Local police took his fingerprints dispatched them to Washington, D. C., to the federal identification bureau and when his record returned it showed a score of arrests and two previous convictions and sentences to penitentiaries. He operated under a a number of aliases. The other Negro had a record of only minor offenses and no prison terms.

Cooperating with W. C. Linville, chief of police, Maurice P. O'Keefe, county attorney, went to work on the two criminals to get them to plead guilty to burglary charges and thereby save the county the expense of trials. The Negroes, however, indicated they would stand trial and the trials were scheduled to start yesterday morning before a jury in district court.

With the evidence overwhelmingly against them, the Negroes finally decided to enter pleas of guilty. Judge Lawrence F. Day immediately passed sentence on them. One automatically received the life sentence because of two previous convictions, which is the law in Kansas. The other received the lighter sentence.

Atchison has been fortunately free of petty thievery and burglary during the last year. The sneak thieves, burglars and other types of criminals have learned that justice moves swiftly and rapidly in Atchison and the county. Police ended a series of break-ins during last year when one of the most notorious burglars in the history of the community was shot down and fatally wounded by policemen as he attempted to escape from a building he had just broken into.

Most of the criminal cases in the city and county have been handled so efficiently by the city and county officers that in the great majority of cases it has not been necessary to hold trials, which means a saving to the taxpayers. Chicken thieves have found it unwise to operate in the county, several having been captured and sent to the penitentiary before they had time to spend what little money they obtained from the sale of their stolen fowls.

So it would be well for any one planning a life of crime in this locality to change their plans or else move from within the borders of the county as its is very obvious that crime doesn't pay in Atchison

Crime - 1936

Louisiana

BOTH RACES PROTEST POLICE BRUTALITY IN MASS MEETING

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 27—A mass meeting was held on Thursday night at the Pythian Temple under the auspices of the New Orleans branch of the NAACP. The meeting was held in the interest of securing justice in the case of Willie Gray, 17-year-old schoolboy who was shot here by two white detectives last week. Both white and black citizens attended the meeting in large numbers and discussed plans for the necessary steps to redress such cases as that mentioned.

One of the most rousing speeches made came from Rev. B. Jolicour, pastor of one of the leading downtown churches. Rev. W. H. Gray, father of the assaulted lad, gave in detail the story as learned from the lips of his stricken son on his bed in Charity hospital. Keen emotion was shown by the people present at the faltering tones of this heartbroken father. Rev. Gray gave a brief history of the 100 years that his family has lived in Louisiana stating that never before has anything of this nature occurred. He also explained that every day Willie was allowed free passage on the ferry boat which plys between New Orleans where Willie attends school and Algiers where he lives. From the ferry landing Willie walks two miles to school due to the fact that he does not have carfare as there are seven children in the family and it is necessary to reduce to a minimum all expenses. Rev. Gray is pastor of a church in Opelousas, La.

After expressions from white and Race citizens alike it was decided to continue meetings; give the case newspaper publicity, accept the cooperation of white women's organizations, and to seek the aid of the white ministerial associations. It was unanimously decided to carry the case to the highest authorities if such be necessary.

On Sunday night a large group of speakers headed by George McDemmond address 30 of the city's largest churches in an effort to arouse Race members in a definite manner and to build up public sentiment against increasing police brutality. As a result of these church contacts mass meetings are being planned in each of the 17 wards of the city.

A very largely attended meeting was held in the ninth ward on Monday night with the NAACP in charge assisting was a citizens' committee of the ninth ward to add further protest in the Willie Gray case and in treatment of school children who use the Public Service vehicles to and from school. A recent case of discourtesy, humiliation and arrest of an outstanding woman who is a member of the one of the city's oldest families has also spurred action in this case.

The members of the citizens' committee sponsoring this meeting are Frank C. Brown A. Riley W. L. Gottchalk J. N. Cager and Revs. A. D. Dixion D. L. Bailey B. Jolicour N. Coplin R. K. Watson Robert Jennеford I. Hunt, E. W. Sims, I. Vincent, J. Banks, W. W. Towles and I. Jackson.

In extenuation,
Of their cremation,
"They were bad,"
Was the simple explanation.
— Cincinnati Union

Crime - 1936

Maryland

WILMINGTON, DEL.
Eve. Journal-Every Eve'g.

APR 22 1936

Sentences as Deterrents

MARYLAND justice has overtaken three Negroes who blackjaced an elderly merchant in Hillsboro, on the Eastern Shore of that state, and injured him seriously.

Each of the offenders was sentenced to spend five years in the Maryland penitentiary. The story of the assault, as it was recited in court, revealed that the Negroes richly deserved the sentences inflicted upon them.

In all sections of our Peninsula the spirit of thuggery and brutality is too manifest for public tranquillity and comfort.

A few more sentences such as are referred to above will go a long way toward dissipating this spirit.

Lawless Entry of Policemen Hit in Court

BALTIMORE—The homes of citizens of Baltimore must be inviolate and unlawful entrances by members of the police department must cease, Magistrate Hugh H. Jones, white, ruled at the Northeastern police station on Wednesday.

Sergt. Edward Twele and Patrolman Earl Crosby, both white, were the officers given the admonition when they brought two women before the magistrate on charges of operating a lottery. Both of the accused persons were dismissed.

According to the officers, Misses Romeena Robinson and Daisy Jenkins could be seen in possession of lottery tickets from a window of their home in the 800 block of Sterling Street. "We peeped in," the officers said.

Walked by Window

The officers charged that they walked by the window several times before they opened an unlocked door and placed the women under arrest.

When Magistrate Jones learned that the policemen had no warrants permitting the entry he ordered the women released.

Crime - 1936

Mississippi.

ALFRED W. COMINGS GRANTED CLEMENCY

Convicted in 1931 Holdup of Como Bank

FAMILIES ARE PROMINENT

5-27-36

Total of Nine Pardons or Suspensions Allowed by Executive Order—Honeycutt Is Among Those Freed

From Jackson, Miss., Bureau of The Commercial Appeal

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., May 26.—Executive clemency was extended today to nine persons under court sentences, including Alfred W. Comings, serving seven years in the state penitentiary for the 1931 holdup of the Como Bank in Panola County.

Governor White was petitioned by court officials and various citizens to pardon Comings one month before expiration of his sentence, June 25, in order to restore citizenship rights to the Purdue University graduate and member of families prominent in Illinois and Mississippi. Attorney General Greek L. Rice, who was trial judge at the time of Comings' conviction, was among the petitioners for executive intervention.

Made Prison Trusty

Comings plans to return to his wife and family in Illinois. His wife is now living with her father at Villa Ridge, Ill. During the latter part of his term, Comings was made a trusty at the penitentiary, and served as an attendant in the hospital and fingerprint section.

Convicted with Comings were two young men named Stover and Winters, the latter having made, according to records, a "bad prisoner."

Comings at the time of his conviction was a salesman for burglar alarms for banks, and two days before the holdup called on the institution. He denied active participation in the robbery, but joined the two bandits one mile from the scene, using his car in an effort to escape.

At the trial, it developed that Stover and Winters had spent the night before the robbery with Comings at his home in Memphis.

Other Pardons

Others granted full pardons were:

Elgie F. Honeycutt, sentenced from Humphreys County in February, 1935, to serve a life sentence on a statutory charge.

P. Nelson, Bolivar County, October, 1934, five years for homicide.

D. M. Craft, George County, October, 1934, a jail sentence for larceny (stealing a hog).

Frank Lee, sentenced from Jones County in 1935, to serve two years for burglary, was given an indefinite suspension. He is to report to his father in Texas, who is to make a monthly report to the governor. Lee has been cook at the camp for trusties, who worked around the penal office.

A 90-day suspension of sentence, pending completion of pardon papers, was given to Charles and Curtis Brashier, sentenced from Lauderdale County in Febraury, 1936, to serve one year for having stolen property in their possession.

Recipients of six months' suspensions were Herman S. Evans, Newton County, March 1935, 10 years for burglary, and Johnnie Owens, Pike County, October, 1933, five years for burglary.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
July 28, 1936

Our Tragic And Discreditable State Homicide Statistics

Mississippi had too many lynchings last year, seven of them.

Mississippi apparently had too few legal hangings,—only two of them.

That is one conclusion many may draw from the official fact and announcement that Mississippi last year had a higher homicide rate than any other state in the union.

The State's homicide total was 515, of whom 118 were white and 397 colored. That makes the homicide rate 26.2 per 100,000 population.

Several Mississippi counties had more homicides last year than several states. One county had more than the state of New Hampshire, Nevada, and Maine combined. And the state's total exceeded the combined total of 15 other states.

That's shocking. It is disgraceful. It is costly and discreditable publicity for Mississippi. But what can be done about it?

The record indicates that reform of our criminal procedure is one of the things that must be done. For the record shows that of 512 slayers who killed persons in Mississippi last year only 146 were convicted. Of these, 86 were sentencd to less than life imprisonment; 50 wre given life sentences; and, of ten sentenced to be hanged, only two had been hanged up to July 1 of this year.

The laws against gambling and liquor must be enforced if this tragic and scandalous homicide rate is to be reduced, because "official reports show at least 50 per cent of the killings in Mississippi last year were due directly or indirectly to these vices."

The official pamphlet revealing these statistics makes unpleasant reading. But it would be a good thing if civic leaders in every community and county would get copies of it and read it. It isn't a pleasant subject, but it is one commanding public study.

A casual study of the map revealing homicides last year by counties shows that Choctaw, Franklin, and Lamar counties reported none.

They may well be proud of that.

Brewton Negro Is Caught By Posse

BILOXI, MISS., Aug. 13.—(AP)—A 22-year-old negro, booked as Samuel Williams, of Brewton, Ala., was being held in the Jackson County Jail tonight after his capture by a citizens' posse which engaged him in a three-hour gun battle.

The negro was struck by several bullets, but his wounds were not critical. He was charged with burglarizing and with beating a white woman over the head with a blackjack.

Mrs. Fannie Loughridge told officers a negro entered her home early yesterday and demanded money. She said she gave him what she had but it was not enough to satisfy the negro and he struck her over the head.

A half dozen other homes were entered in the same neighborhood. More than 500 citizens joined in the search for the intruder and overpowered Williams after an exchange of fire.

Officers said Williams admitted entering the Loughridge home and said he had an accomplice, whom he named only as "Lawson." Authorities were seeking the second negro tonight.

Crime – 1936

Missouri.

RENT MAN ADMITS HE LOST $100 AT POKER NOT TO NEGRO ROBBER

Fabricated Holdup Story After Losing Collections In A Game With Quartet

After charging that two Negroes had held him up with a pistol and taken $100.00 from him, Marvin Crow, 33, 1325 Hughes Pl., white rent collector from Alabama, confessed under grilling by headquarters that he fabricated the story after losing the money in a poker game with four colored men.

Bush White 45, an illiterate and James Tyler, 29, both of 2110 Randolph St., who stated that they were sitting on their porch and saw him held up, admitted they had been led to tell the story by the white man after the card game in their house. Two other men who were in the game were questioned. They were Jesse Williams, 39, 2314 Walnut St., and C. Harrison, 30, 2314a. Scott Ave. Each had money on them which they stated they had won from Crow.

Crow said that the money was rent collections belonging to the Rubinsky Realty Co. by which he is employed.

Crime - 1936

New Jersey

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
February 26, 1936

Samuel Leibowitz, attorney for the defense in the Scottsboro case, who entered defense counsel for Bruno Richard Hauptmann upon the condition that he would tell the truth, has withdrawn from the case. The tactics employed by Leibowitz in his efforts to extract a changed story from the convicted murderer included a view of the electric chair. Hauptmann's story remains unchanged.

BRIDGETON, N. J.
NEWS

MAY 29 1936

TWO murders within two weeks among the Negro residents of Salem serves to call attention to the fact that there is too much "gun toting," not only among Negroes, but among whites, as well, calling for stricter enforcement of the law against the unnecessary custom. There is no call for any man other than an officer of the law or a watchman when on duty to go armed, and where exceptional circumstances may render it a matter of safety, a permit can be obtained from the authorities. If the two Salem Negroes had not had guns so handy two lives would have been spared and the murderers saved from prison and possibly the electric chair.

NEWS
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JUN 5 - 1936

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Crime-1936

New York.

Sgt. Chisholm Heads Crime Prevention Unit

NEW YORK, N. Y. (ANP)—Sergeant Lewis Q. Chisholm of the New York police department has been appointed director of the crime prevention unit No. 13, embracing all of Harlem.—36

Sgt. Chisholm is the first colored officer so honored. Sgt. Chisholm assumes his new post immediately.

Working with Sgt. Chisholm will be two of the outstanding officers in the 32nd Precinct, where the majority of police are colored. They are Morrell A. Johnson and Alfred Eldridge.

There will be other officers under the supervision of Sgt. Chisholm in the position formerly held by Mrs. Henrietta Addition.

In the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the police department believes it has a solution for the reduction of crime and, through this bureau, it hopes to curb the criminal tendencies and acts by substitution of more wholesome and entertaining recreational activities.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

JUL 1 - 1936

HARLEM PROBLEM.

FROM the viewpoint of a Ku Klux Klansman, no doubt, the Negroes in Harlem have things so much their own way that they're disgustingly pampered.

But no person of even moderately alert intelligence can be surprised at the report of the Mayor's Committee on Conditions in Harlem, now belatedly come to light, setting forth the hundreds of discriminations and injustices which are commonplace in that section. As a result, says the report, natural resentment has created a volcano which threatens the city with a renewal of rioting.

Although no surprise, the report is a valuable contribution because it sets down plainly and with official authority so that no one can miss it the sorry condition of life endured by most of the city's 200,000 Negro inhabitants. It tells just the way in which these conditions are bad and what might be done about them.

For example, the report says, "it is true that the police practice oppressions and brutalities upon the Harlem citizens not only because they are Negroes but because they are poor and therefore defenseless." Who could deny the reasonableness of that charge under any police administration?

The report tells of the aggravation of slum housing conditions in Harlem, of the maddening industrial discrimination against the Negro in search of a job, of inferior schools, short change on relief, restricted opportunities everywhere.

Idealism illuminates these paragraphs, and Harlem itself would be the first to recognize that all the subtle barriers of prejudice cannot be broken down for generations to come. But the report is a practical document. The remedy to many of these evils, and the most oppressive of them, can and should be provided at once.

We needn't fear that regimentation will kill the warmth and jazz of the Harlem spirit. With decent schools and healthy homes Harlem still can foster its Father Divine, Lindy hops and hi-de-ho.

But with Harlem a cancer spot of misery and discrimination, New York itself can't be healthy.

N. Y. EVENING POST

JUL 2 - 1936

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HARLEM, MR. MAYOR?

Why is Mayor LaGuardia suppressing the April 3 report of his own Committee on Conditions in Harlem?

Why does he continue to put off publication with the bland assurance that the committee's requests will be taken care of?

The most important section of the suppressed report is understood to deal with police brutality and lawless police methods in New York's Negro community.

Since ill-feeling caused by long-continued police brutality played an important part in starting the riot of March 19, 1935, the facts must be made known for public discussion and remedy.

The committee is reported to have charged that—

Police in Harlem systematically enter and search private homes of Negroes on suspicion or anonymous complaint without search warrants.

Police in Harlem systematically stop citizens on the streets and search them without warrant.

Police in Harlem, as a matter of routine, stop all mixed groups of white and colored on the streets and "investigate" them.

The Mayor's committee was supposed to isolate causes of unrest in Harlem and report on them. What good to report on them if the report involves one of the Mayor's departments and is therefore buried?

The city's attitude on police brutality in Harlem is strikingly revealed in two important cases.

The Mayor has consistently refused to order a departmental inquiry into the conduct of the policemen who shot and killed a sixteen-year-old Negro boy, Lloyd Hobbs, on the night of the riot.

Because a Grand Jury did not find a homicide indictment against the patrolmen, the Mayor considers the case ended. But a policeman not guilty of homicide may still be guilty of bad police judgment.

The other case is the Aiken assault. Thomas Aiken was beaten by the police during an altercation in a breadline. One of his eyes was gouged out.

District Attorney Dodge's reaction to the beating was to order charges of felonious assault brought against—Aiken.

Aiken is suing two policemen. Members of the committee are reported to have charged that the city's law department is helping to obtain delays in the action—even though the policemen as individuals are being sued, not the city.

If the above charges are true, there is little mystery why there is unrest in Harlem. Suppression of the charges will only increase the unrest.

We give the Mayor credit due him for making a start toward ending certain major economic and social causes of unrest in Harlem. He has doubled the capacity of Harlem Hospital, speeded construction of school buildings and recreation centers. He has been more decent to Negro city workers than any Mayor in recent history. He has given Negro physicians a somewhat better break in the city health service.

But why does the Mayor permit the police anker, Harlem's oldest scandal, to remain unreated? Why does he suppress the committee eport?

"Disagreeable" Cops

WHEN 189 probationary policemen were graduated the other day, Commissioner Lewis A. Valentine told them that they "must be courteous to the public," stating that he meant both visitors and residents. "We might as well follow the policy of the police force of London," the commissioner said, "and dismiss disagreeable policemen."

Harlemites who read these words will wonder whether Mr. Valentine meant what he said. They will remember a few verified findings of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, which Mr. LaGuardia has kept from the public for months. The Amsterdam News published the entire report, and we recall a few of the things it said about Mr. Valentine's policemen. Ponder over these:

"The insecurity of the individual in Harlem by words and acts of the police is one of the most potent causes for the existing hostility to whites were not to associate with 'the black ——— in Harlem.'"

"In the chapter on the outbreak of March 19, reference has already been made to the inexcusable killing of Lloyd Hobbs and the attempt of the police to justify the killing by not only making the boy appear as a burglar at 10:30 in the morning, but also by changing the time of his death to 1:30 in the afternoon, when the line had reached the point of escaping with his loot, but also by changing the station. Another in-cident, which occurred just where he would have soon received his food, the record in the police station. break of March 19 and he was shoved a bit out of line by other men, stance of police brutality, which was the sentment against the who had placed themselves in line. At this police station because he was walking with a colored woman. He was held for a time until he could prove to the officer that he was a colored man. Moreover, he was brought out by white witnesses, who were arrested during the riot, that the police attempted to impress upon

"Thomas Aikens, a young Negro, 28 years of age, and who came from a respectable fam-

ily, was standing in a breadline in the 369th Infantry Armory Building on March 13, 1935. He had gone to the Armory in order to get a free meal because, being unemployed, he did not want to depend entirely upon his relatives and friends.

"When Mr. Aikens got in line, at about 10:30 in the morning, there were about 150 men ahead of him. At about 1:30 in the afternoon, when the line had reached the point of the police to justify the killing of Lloyd Hobbs and the

Crime-1936

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point two policemen, namely, David Egan and Eugene Cahill came to him and, with abusive language, told him to go to the end of the line, which now had increased to about 500 men. Aikens protested, stating that he was out of line due to the constant pushing by the men and that he had a right to remain where he was, having been in line since 10:30 in the morning.

"With this protest, he was labeled a 'smart nigger' and immediately was set upon by the two police officers, who were assisted by another white man, known as 'Cap,' who is in charge of feeding the men who come to the Armory. Aikens was first struck in the mouth by a blunt instrument and, as a means of protecting his face, he threw up his hands. Someone from the rear struck him on the head and again he was struck in the face and in the left eye. . . .

"The admitting physician diagnosed the injuries as being 'traunstic rupture of the left eyeball.'

"Patrolman Labutinaki was called about four o'clock the morning of March 25, 1935, to arrest one Edward Laurie, a Negro, 32 years of age, who was charged with disorderly conduct by a Negro manager of a restaurant on Lenox avenue. Evidence was presented to show that Laurie had been drinking and that he struck the policeman a slight blow.

"Patrolman Labutinaki struck him in return with such violence as to knock Laurie to the sidewalk, fracturing his skull so badly that he died in the hospital fifty minutes later. Even if the story of the officer is accepted as entirely true, it is obvious that he was in no jeopardy whatever, and that Laurie was unsteady on his feet and was totally unarmed."

We hope that Mr. Valentine has read the section on police brutality, which would indicate that heretofore the commissioner did not find **"disagreeable"** policemen such bad fellows. We will refuse to believe that Mr. Valentine wants his officers to be gentlemen until he shows some inclination to ferret out and punish the force's brutal members who are **"disagreeable"** to the point of viciousness.

Crime - 1936

North Carolina

NEW ORLEANS, LA
STATES

JUL 18 1936

Bloodhounds and Criminals

AN INTERESTING case recently occurred in Wilson, N. C., that challenges the infallibility of bloodhounds in running down suspected criminals.

A negro was tried for stealing some meat, convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. When the negro, protesting his absolute innocence, had served several weeks, two others confessed and offered convincing proof that they were the guilty parties.

It turned out that the only evidence presented by the prosecution was that bloodhounds had trailed the accused without hesitation from the scene of the crime to his home. The hounds may have followed him from one point to the other, but he wasn't the guilty man. They missed the trail of the thieves, and the innocent negro was turned lose.

The Richmond TIMES-DISPATCH, calling attention to the fallacy that so keen is the nose of these animals they can follow one trail in a maze of others, says Virginia, believing grave injustices can be done by accepting the infallibility of the dogs, refuses to justify convictions on the sole evidence given by the dogs; she requires corroborative evidence. Her courts consider the dog evidence cumulative but not conclusive evidence.

That would seem a sound principle to be followed by other states in the light of the unusual North Carolina case.

Crime - 1936

North Carolina

Wilmington, N. C. News
July 5, 1936

BLOODHOUND NOT INFALLIBLE

The bloodhound, famed in story and tradition as the inevitable animal whose sense of smell leads him unerringly to his quarry, is in disrepute.

A Wilson negro, sentenced to the roads for some offense, mainly on the evidence of a brace of bloodhounds who trailed him from the scene, is now free because two others confessed to the crime.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the brief sentence suffered by this man has been of incalculable benefit to humanity. It has proved the bloodhound is not infallible, and it has also opened the question of how many innocents have suffered because their fellows chose to believe a dog's sense of smell is perfect.

The bloodhound does have a keen sense of smell. It is probably more keenly developed in this respect than most dogs, but when it comes to following the scent of an individual, and that individual a stranger, through all the cross trails the average person would follow in leaving a given spot, and still go direct to its original game, is to credit the dog with possessing a quality that the most delicate of scientific instruments cannot approximate.

Like many other beliefs still prevalent, we have come to believe a lot of old wiches' tales about the bloodhound and his relentless pursuit. Tales that have no more foundation in fact than the old belief that sleeping in the moonlight causes insanity.

We have been regaled with stories of bloodhound's savagery, when as a matter of fact, he is one of the most gentle and the friendliest of dogs.

PHYSICIAN'S CONVICTION IS REVERSED

Word Of White Woman Against Race Man Not Accepted

GREENSBORO, N. C., July 17—The deathbed statement of a young white woman was held as not being sufficient to convict a Race doctor of performing the illegal operation which allegedly caused her death by the state supreme court here last week.

As a result of this decision, which is extraordinary for a southern state, the seven to 12 year sentence imposed on Dr. C. C. Stewart, prominent Greensboro physician, was revoked and a new trial granted.

The case which has become sensational in view of this decision originated in November, 1934, with the death of Miss Ethel Smith, young white girl. According to police, the young woman, prior to her death, named Ollie Parrish, white, as her lover and as being responsible for her plight, and Dr. Stewart as the physician who performed the illegal operation which it is claimed resulted in her death.

Both Dr. Stewart and Parrish were convicted and a seven to 12-year sentence was imposed on the Race physician. Both defendants immediately appealed the sentences of the state court which handed down its decision last week.

Dr. Stewart has maintained complete innocence of the crime ever since the charges were first made. He has admitted, however, that the young woman did visit his offices and ask him to perform the operation. He says that he refused her request.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
November 11, 1936

Ignorance

A Negro is said to have purchased lumber to build a house. He had a man build the house. It was a four-room house, nothing elaborate. It cost him about $1,500 for the lumber and about the same amount for the man to build it. This was $3,000 for a four-room frame house that shouldn't have cost, at the peak, a sum nearly so large as that.

The Negro paid on the house for eight years. He still owes, according to the mortgage holders, $1,200. His payments are about up to date but they are going to take his house. The Negro was ignorant and still is. He doesn't know what to do, but way back in his head he believes that somebody hasn't treated him right. He is trying to save his house, representing a lifetime of toil and pain.

He won't save the house. The law gives the mortgage holders the right to take it, although he paid much more than it was worth to begin with, and has, evidently, paid a tremendous amount of interest.

There is no law against ignorance. But there should be a law against people taking advantage of an ignorant person.

North Carolina

Crime-1936

N. C. ELECTRIC CHAIR TO GET LAST VICTIM

Quincy Fla. Murder
8-1-31 Norfolk Va.

Negro Slated To Die August 1; Member of Same Race Was First To Be Gassed To Death

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—When John Pressley, Gaston County Negro, dies in the electric chair August 7, for murder, he will be the last person in this state be legally electrocuted. After that day, North Carolina abolishes its "hot seat." Presley is the last of three men remaining to die in the chair.

In its place is the new lethal gas chamber, installed because the 1935 state general asembly thought it was the most humane way to get rid of the condemned men. The first victim of this chamber was also a Negro Allen Foster of Birmingham, who reputedly once fought Joe Louis in the boxing arena. Foster's death, some months ago, was so horrible that even hardened reporters and prison officials were sickened.

Exactly 169 men have been electrocuted in the 26 years of the chair's existence. Many of these have been colored. The state's first double execution took place in 1906 when two Guilford county Negroes died for murder.

Crime-1936

North Carolina

Aiken S. C. Review
Feb. 4-1936

THE FIRST VICTIM

RECENTLY our sister state, North Carolina, changed its mode of executing criminals convicted of criminal offense from electricity to lethal gas execution.

From all accounts the first execution by asphyxiation at Raleigh recently, in which a Negro paid with his life for an attack on a white woman, was about as inhumane as one could imagine. Something like twelve minutes elapsed before the victim was pronounced dead, and those who witnessed the execution were unanimous in the opinion that the negro went through considerable suffering before passing into the great beyond. The coroner of Wake county who had witnessed 72 electrocutions said after witnessing death by gas, "This is my first execution by gas and will be my last."

Personally, the editor is not a believer in capital punishment, does not believe that any mortal man or set of men have the authority to take the life of another. But, if we must have capital punishment, the quickest and least painful method should be employed in carrying out the executions.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
February 3, 1936

Execution by Gas

THE SUBJECT is not pleasant, but it is one which Georgia may be asked to face sooner or later, the matter of change in the method of capital punishment. The facts, therefore, of the first execution in North Carolina under the new law requiring lethal gas are pertinent.

Representative C. A. Peterson, a medical doctor, was successful last year in a long campaign to have North Carolina change its law and execute the death penalty by means of a gas chamber instead of the electric chair. The first execution by gas took place the other day. The subject was a twenty-year-old negro. Twelve minutes elapsed between release of the gas in the lethal chamber and the death of the victim.

The accounts of most of the eyewitnesses agree that the execution was the most horrible and apparently the most painful they had ever seen. Some of them were veteran newspaper men whom duty had required to witness twenty-five or more electrocutions and hangings. Tom Bost, the dean of the Raleigh correspondents, had seen one hundred and fifty electrocutions. He said, "Electrocution is an easy and merciful death, compared with gas." Coroner L. M. Waring, of Wake County, said: "I never want to see another gas execution. It is a slow and tortuous death, compared with hanging or electrocution." "It is hell," said one news man who was forced to leave before the gasping and straining at the straps which held the criminal had ceased.

The method used was this: The condemned man was placed in a plate glass chamber, and strapped in a heavy chair. Beneath which was a tub of hydrochloric acid. Above the tub was a shelf on which rested pellets of cyanide of potassium. A stethoscope was affixed to the heart of the victim by adhesive tape, as a guide to the official physicians in the control room. Electric contact motivated mechanism which upset the pellets, dropping them into the acid, whereupon the deadly gas fumes began to rise. Although convulsions and heart beats persisted for more than ten minutes, it was the opinion of the observing physicians that consciousness was lost in about two minutes.

The author of the lethal gas law insisted, after the execution, that the method is "definitely more humane than electrocution." The other physicians present declined to state their opinions. All the lay observers dissented.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
February 15, 1936

IS THIS ANOTHER "FROZEN FEET" SCRAPE?

It is noted that two of the negroes involved in the waste stealing and selling scrape some weeks ago are dead, after having been tried, convicted and sentenced to the chaingang. Two Gaston county negroes, one McMoore and one Lineberger, succumbed to pneumonia after having been in Mecklenburg prison camps a few weeks.

Is this another instance of Shropshire neglect? Was the proper attention given to these negroes? Is it true that there was gross neglect in the handling of the matter, when there was an apparent mix-up in two negro prisoners, the McMoore brothers, James and John? One was too sick to go to the roads and was to have been sent to the county home. Is it true that the sick man was sent to the chaingang instead of his brother?

As one man pointed out this morning, the white men involved in this affair, two on this side of the river, who are the alleged brains of the stealing, and those who bought the waste in Charlotte, have gone scot free so far. Two negroes involved are dead.

And yet they say justice is blind. There are those who complain bitterly when some one makes the charge that there are two kinds of justice in our courts. If this is not a fair sample of it, we have never seen or heard of it. Because the white men could raise the money with which to put up bond, and have their cases continued, they are free. In the meantime, two negroes have paid with their lives.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

FEB 23 1936

PNEUMONIA IN CHARLOTTE.

Dispatches telling of the exoneration of state prison officials in Charlotte of any criminal negligence in connection with the death of two negro convicts of pneumonia by Solicitor John G. Carpenter and of the police of that city from any blame related to the death of a prisoner, also from pneumonia, 24 hours after he had been admitted to jail are brief and contain no citation of facts upon which the conclusions were reached. Aside from congratulating Charlotte on having escaped another Barnes-Shropshire scandal by officialdom's fiat, we are impressed with one striking similarity between these two instances of prisoners' deaths by pneumonia which otherwise, as far as we know, are not related.

In both investigations, the one conducted by the solicitor and the other by the chief of police, the inquisitors point to further steps which can be taken by outraged persons, if any, or a curious public in the event they are not satisfied with the inquiry so far. Mr. Carpenter after satisfying himself and the director of state's penal division Oscar Pitts, that there is no criminal guilt to be attached anywhere leaves it to the conscience of the public and to the oft-time ineffective grand jury to prove him wrong. The police head said after his investigation: "I don't see anything in this case for which to censure the police department." He said however, he would turn the report over to the civil service commission for whatever action it deems necessary.

From this distante the Daily News, which knows little else than that three persons, one in the custody of the city of Charlotte and two in charge of the state of North Carolina, died from pneumonia in such a way as to suggest the possibility of neglect outside of their own, is not in position to dispute the findings. But we are willing to gamble that the grand jury, a part of Solicitor Carpenter's court and always theoretically open to people seeking justice, and the civil service commission, a sort of guardian as we understand for the Charlotte police department, cannot and will not go further than their principal agents, the solicitor and the chief, nave already gone. Outside of these observations there but remains merely the urge to commend Charlotte for having prison caretakers who know pneumonia when they see it, at least a few hours before it causes death.

Charlotte, N. C., News
March 30, 1936

Suiting the Punishment to the Crime.

Although most of the murders of Negroes by Negroes, it is ex- in this part of the country are ceedingly rare that the Biblical and legal penalty of a life for a life is invoked in such cases. That may be one of the several reasons why Negroes continue to kill each other in numbers and with relative impunity for the killers. About the worst punishment ever meted out to Negro murderers is 15 years in the penitentiary. Often the state, unprepared to press for a first-degree verdict, accepts a plea of guilty of manslaughter and lets the murderer go at that.

However, what looks to have the makings of a preconceived murder and lets it at another Negro and threatened with the shotgun pointed killed one man, our desperado with the police arrived and he let one barrel before he fled.

Such behavior is, of course, reprehensible; but if the murder as described by the police, it ought to have its uses. Nothing can restore the dead man to life, but if the state was to make out a first-degree murder case against a Negro for the murder of a Negro, and if it was to obtain a verdict of guilty and the death sentence that goes with it, the effect upon potential Negro killers would, we think, be salutary.

Nothing herein is to be interpreted as indicating the guilt or the degree of guilt of the assassin concerned; that is the business of the court. But we repeat that the effect of a first-degree verdict in a case of premeditated murder of a Negro by another Negro would be salutary.

Crime-1936

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

APR 28 1936

What Makes It Unusual.

What is described as "a case of unusual interest" is scheduled to be heard in criminal court tomorrow. It is a trial for murder, but there is nothing unusual in that. In this church-goingest city we have 20, 30 or 40 murders every year. A Negro is to be tried for the murder of another Negro, but there is nothing unusual in that either. Most of our 20, 30 or 40 murders annually are of Negroes by Negroes.

No, what makes this case unusual is that the State is going to try for a verdict of murder in the first degree. Even that isn't unusual in itself; the State has started out many times before to ask for a first degree verdict. But inevitably when the slayer and his victim have been black, the verdict has been at worst murder in the second degree or manslaughter. The customary atonement imposed is a few years in the penitentiary. Black lives come cheap.

This time, however, the State thinks it has a water-tight case and can sustain the first degree charge. It expects to prove that murder was done deliberately and premeditatedly rather than on the spur of the moment. It will be interesting to see how it comes out

Columbia, S. C. State
April 15, 1936

GOVERNOR JOHNSTON LEADS A WORTHY CAUSE.

It may be that sentiment for the establishment of a probation system, so earnestly advocated by Governor Olin D. Johnston in his address to the Order of Red Men at Anderson on Monday, will have to be developed in this state and backed by a pronounced public opinion, before there is favorable legislative action. Nevertheless, the governor deserves commendation for leading in such a cause.

In practically all forms of "prison reforms," this state is deplorably backward. Not more backward, perhaps, than several other Southern states but that does not detract from the discredit. In this respect, little progress has been made in a hundred years. Punishment—and in the minds of many, brutal punishment—is the one method, first and last, of dealing with those convicted of crimes.

It is not improbable that the general indifference in the South to all phases of prison reforms could be traced to a sentiment developed from race prejudice. The time was when the great majority of prisoners in the South Atlantic and Gulf states were Negroes. Who thought of "reforming" one of those prisoners? Or of helping one of them "go straight" after being released? Even now, after some enlightenment and after many whites are contributing to the prison populations, punishment and severe punishment, is regarded by many as the one prescription. Today, there are in South Carolina strong opponents of a reformatory for Negro youths. They would put them all in the penitentiary; mix the 14-year-old boy with the depraved old criminal!

Those people, of course, do not comprehend the purpose of prison reforms. In blindness, probably due to prejudice, they regard them as "pampering" the individual. They do not think of reforms in practices and methods as for the safeguarding and betterment of society.

Governor Johnston will find this utter lack of understanding on the part of so many the most serious obstacle in his road to the creation of a probation system, and the provision of more humane practices in prison, with the abolition of the chaingang. But it can be removed. When it is, we would be much nearer the status of a civilized. Christian state.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 9, 1936

Warning to Potential Negro Killers.

Two men were put to death yesterday in the electric chair in Raleigh. Both were Negroes, paying with their lives for the crime of murder even though their victim was a member of their own race.

As we have pointed out before, it is a rare thing in this State for a Negro to be sentenced to death for killing another Negro. For that sentence to be carried out is even rarer. And when two Negro men are electrocuted for killing another Negro, that is an almost unheard of application of justice in North Carolina.

Yesterday's executions, coupled with the recent conviction right here in Mecklenburg county of a Negro for the first-degree murder of another, is an indicatoin that courts in this State are awakening to the fact that murder is murder, regardless of the color of the victim. It portenrs that blind jusitce is in reality becoming color blind and that henceforth Negroes who go about killing their brethren can expect little more consideration before the court than if their victim had been white.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

JUN 26 1936

Bloodhound's Error.

The bloodhound is a better detective between the covers of books, in the movies and in newspaper columns than in real life. The hoary myth that he is infallible as a sleuth, that he "always gets his man" — the right man— dies slowly.

Recently a Wilson county negro was sent to jail for theft. Chief evidence against him was that bloodhounds had trailed him from a smokehouse to his own domicile. The prisoner had served six weeks of his sentence when, lo and behold, two other negroes came forward confessing they had stolen the meat.

Evidently the hounds were having an off day when they trailed the innocent man; or it may have been that they were so hungry for meat that they picked up and followed the first scent of it they happened to strike.

HIGH POINT, N. C.
ENTERPRISE

JUL 11 1936

VIOLENCE MUST BE CHECKED

Death of three persons by violence and the serious injury of others here within a period of a very few days calls for time out. Not a death has occurred that could not have been prevented by due precaution and deliberation.

The parade of accidents began Saturday night when an alleged drunken Negro woman is said to have broken from friends and walked into a fast passenger train. It is hard to fix responsibility for such an accident as this. There are those who blame the Negro woman, the friends with her at the time and the person responsible for her reaching her reported drunken condition at the time, if others than herself had any part in it.

Then comes the unforgivable hit-and-run case at the intersection of South Main and Russell streets Sunday afternoon. The driver most certainly should have stopped. No motorist can hit so large an object as a human body without knowing that he has struck something. None other than an extremely drunken driver could participate in such an accident without knowing an object had been hit and it is doubtful if such could prevail even under those circumstances.

Finally comes the death of a Negro woman who was shot. Perhaps a more rationable explanation will be forthcoming in connection with this fatality. Few people of maturity have not seen the time at some hour in life they would have resorted to extremes had the enabling forces been present. But there is a lot of explaining to be done in connection with murder under any circumstances.

Nevertheless, this city today, after a period of months of little violence, is faced with what appears to some to be a recurrence of former reckless periods. To revert back to the very thing we have been striving for months to overcome is something not to be tolerated. This city has made enormous strides toward the elimination of traffic accidents in particular and toward the elimination of serious crimes in general. Where does the road go now?

Crime - 1936

Oklahoma

BRISTOW, OKLA.
RECORD
JAN 29 1936

Putting 'em Away

A MONKEY wrench was thrown into the machinery of local petty crime Monday when a young Bristow Negro was sentenced to five years in the state penitentiary at McAlester on charges he was an habitual criminal.

The Negro in the case was said by local and county police authorities to have been the city and county jails' most consistent visitor during the past five years. In 1935 he spent three-fourths of his time in the two bastiles.

The sentencing of the Negro to a place where he will be in safe keeping for the next five years is a direct hit against the petty crime wave which laps over this city constantly. City police are kept just as busy curbing this type of stealing, etc., as they would on something bigger.

The path toward getting rid of a lot of the little shots was thrown open Monday by the action, and Creek county courts could do well to follow this path and probably blaze some new ones in different directions. These little habitual criminals, who are in reality "rats in the profession" are responsible for the little felonies that have beset police officials since law and order first came into being.

Thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money are spent every year holding trials for these guys who no sooner get out of one jam than they get right back in again. The sentences which they get for the petty crimes are not stiff. The law provides for punishment for them that ordinarily would discourage further meandering in their lines, but to them it is too soft.

A good idea for combatting these parasites comes from the system used by the local police department and in all the larger cities. When a man is arrested here even for the slightest offense, his name and criminal history are set down on cards and filed away for further use. After they have stepped off the "straight and narrow" three or four times it is easy to lay the proof in front of the judge who passes the habitual criminal sentence. Then after possibly five years in the penitentiary these little shots will come out with the feeling that "crime does not pay." If they don't, there can follow the old procedure of "in again, out again, in again." Anyway they can't steal much between sentences and while they are locked up.

Crime - 1936

Pennsylvania.

Earle Names Alexander for Crime Conference

Afro-American 12-19-36

PHILADELPHIA — Raymond Pace Alexander, local attorney, has been selected by Gov. George Earle and Attorney General C. G. Margiotti to sit on the crime conference to make recommendations to the next Legislature which meets on January 3.

Mr. Alexander

The conference will be held at Harrisburg in the State Senate, December 14-16.

Those persons invited to the conference are regarded as authorities in socio-criminological studies and criminal law.

Aside from an entirely new codification of the criminal law and statutes regulating crime, the Legislature is expected to enact Social-Security legislation.

Crime - 1936

South Carolina.

BAYONNE, N. J.
TIMES

FEB 28 1936

COUNSEL SEEKS WRIT FOR BOY

Move to Prevent Extradition of Gathers Is Taken in Newark

Application for a writ of habeas corpus to prevent extradition to South Carolina of Joseph Gathers, 19-year-old Bayonne colored youth, will be made today to Federal Judge Clark in Newark.

Counselor Rosario S. Mazzola, retained as counsel for the youth, accompanied by William Carter, colored Jersey City lawyer, who has been requested to join the defense by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People left for Newark shortly before noon. They were also accompanied by Attorney John J. Pagano, whi is associated with Mr. Mazzola.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was made known this morning, has also requested Dr. D. G. Morris of this city, president of its local unit, to cooperate with the Rev. Albert J. Tibbs, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, in a campaign for defense funds. They are planning a mass meeting in the boy's behalf, to be held some time next week.

Gathers, whose home is at 421 Avenue C, is now a prisoner at the Hudson County Jail. He is charged with having been involved in the operation of a still and in the shooting of a Federal agent in South Carolina last May, although he claims he hasn't been South in 15 years.

He was taken into custody by an agent of the Alcohol Tax Unit of the U. S. Treasury Department, while at the CCC Camp at Camp Dix.

Columbia S. C. State
April 17, 1936

PEN POPULATION REMAINS STEADY

Total of 1,263 Prisoners Held at Penitentiary and Prison Farms.

The total penitentiary and prisen farm population yesterday was 1,263, of which number 520 were whites and 743 Negroes. In the penitentiary yard were confined 504 white men, 15 white women, 469 Negro men and 73 Negro women, totaling 1,062.

At the Reid farm were 105 prisoners and at the DeSaussure farm 96.

The prison population for some time now has stood at approximately 1,200.

Columbia, S. C. State
April 24, 1936

NEGRO FUGITIVE IS BACK IN AIKEN

Special to The State.

Aiken, April 23.—Edgar Ruff, negro convict, is back on the Aiken county chain gang despite the efforts of the Association for Advancement of Colored People to prevent his extradition from New York. In an extradition hearing before Governor Lehman, attorneys for the association branded Southern chain gangs as brutal and alleged prisoners were "beaten and tortured."

Getting Ruff back to the gang to finish his eighteen-month sentence for turning loose a smoke-screen when pursued by officers while hauling a load of liquor cost two Aiken county officers the waste of two weeks' time. After Ruff, who made his escape from the gang by stealing a county truck, was apprehended in New York, County Comissioner A. E. Yaun and County Road Officer Price Fallaw went North for him.

Crime-1936

Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn.
TIMES

FEB 11 1936

THE GAMBLING RACKET.

The gambling evil has replaced gangland activities in the headlines of the newspapers of the country in recent weeks, and now the bureau of investigation of the department of justice has come forward with offers of aid to local law enforcement officers in curbing the various rackets.

For more than a year the Chattanooga police department has waged war on the "tipboard" and "high-score" rackets, which have reached formidable proportions in this community, but the sum total of results has apparently been almost nil. Blame for this situation has been placed, to some extent, upon the technicalities of the law and the failure of the courts to give prison sentences to offenders against the gambling edicts. While hundreds of arrests have been made for violations of the gambling laws, and many have been given small fines, not one offender has spent an hour in jail, Commissioner of Police Eugene J. Bryan has stated.

The chartered social club is proving the greatest handicap to police control of gambling in this city, Commissioner Bryan asserts, due to the fact that these clubs operate behind locked doors and the general public and police are not admitted. It is necessary to have a search warrant before police can enter these clubs, and by the time the officers hack down two or more doors or gain admittance otherwise all evidence of gambling has been removed. Following the advent of national prohibition these social clubs sprang up like mushrooms in Chattanooga and at this time new clubs are being chartered, police report. There is nothing in the applications for these social club charters to indicate a purpose to run a gambling joint, but this is the main objective, police officials contend. Clubs of this type have been the scenes of two recent killings here.

It should not be too difficult to evolve some method of curbing the chartering of these social clubs. It might be possible for the attorney-general's office to scrutinize with unusual care these applications and register objections to their issuance by the secretary of state if the character of the applicants justifies such action. As the situation now stands, apparently any person paying the fee fixed by the state can obtain a charter and operate a gambling joint unhindered by police and constabulary.

Many and varied are the places where the "high-score" and "tipboard" rackets are operated. These locations include poolrooms, restaurants, Negro entertainment resorts, beer saloons and other gathering places throughout the city. Numerous Negroes are reported employed by "big shots" in these rackets and go from house to house and hawk their wares to their victims, who include members of both races and both sexes. "Pay-off" places are scattered around in various sections of the city in order to prevent detection by the police. Schoolboys and girls have become fired by the gambling spirit and, according to reports, many children place their lunch money on games of chance at nearby stands and take a fling at Lady Luck.

Wives of several workmen who have lost their week's pay in gaming places have sued the operators for return of the money, but there is no record of any of these operators having to refund the amounts gambled away by their victims.

The gambling situation as pictured by the police authorities is, to say the least, uninviting. Certainly the time is opportune for action. Perhaps a grand jury investigation into conditions prevailing in the city and county would not be amiss.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

MAR 3 - 1936

Inhumanity

TWENTY convicts are sent to a Tennessee prison infirmary for treatment of frozen feet, fingers, or ears. From the news:

"Lawrence Finch, 17-year-old Negro, said he was 'draggin' around and unable to work much,' but that he was 'new and didn't know how to tell them about my feet. I worked a grader and had to walk with my right foot in a ditch of water and ice. My right foot froze. My heel busted two months before, but I kept working . . . "

Prison farm officials explain that a cold snap came suddenly, and so a few freezings couldn't have been prevented. That doesn't explain a "heel-bust" two months old, but perhaps that was merely a trifle which escaped notice in the busy life of a prison-farm.

The Tennessee case is not a major scandal. It is only corroborative evidence of conditions and practices often reported. It also fits, jigsaw fashion, the testimony of the Arkansas girl acquitted of the murder of her father:

"He beat me just like he did the stock.'

We have no gauge for man's inhumanity to man—and woman. Perhaps that's one gadget the inventors are afraid to invent.

ON PAROLES

To The Commercial Appeal:

In one of your editorials of the sixth, you seem to believe very strongly that parole is granted a prisoner on good behavior. You are in error as to that. Parole in prisons is granted solely on basis of the dollar and on political influence. Good behavior or bad behavior have absolutely nothing to do with it. The same forces that rule outside of prisons rule the inside.

DR. G. S. WALLACE.
Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

CONVICT FISK ATHLETE IN FRAUD CASE

James Ballard And White Boss Fined, Get Term In Workhouse

3-21-36

By Staff Correspondent

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 20—(Special)—James Ballard, schoolteacher and former Fisk university athlete, charged with conspiracy to violate the state's registration laws, withdrew from the bar of justice here this week with a conviction in the Davidson county workhouse and with the fact being clearly displayed that he had been but the tool of a ring of white politicians.

Along with Ballard were Squire John Omohundro of the famous "Blue Streak" district and Seth Gipson, local racehorse man. All three men were fined $750 along with sentences for 11 months and 29 days.

Says Ballard Wrote Names

Handwriting Expert Walker of Chicago, who was brought to Nashville for the state's star witness in determining the handwriting in the registration books, closed his part of the case for the state by stating that the signatures in the books were the exact handwriting of Ballard, Omohundro and Gipson.

The jury, after deliberating 50 minutes, imposed the fine of $750 on each defendant. The largest fine possible on such charges in the state of Tennessee is $1000. The court imposed the sentences of 11 months and 29 days, the maximum under the law.

Ballard Placed on Cross

During the trial last week, Omohundro and Gipson, both white bosses of Ballard, were defended by their white friends. In fact their "character" was lauded. When it came to Ballard, not one person in the courtroom attempted to come to his rescue. Even Omohundro and Gipson claimed they only knew Ballard on "speaking terms." In this case, Ballard proved to be the tool of a ring of white politicians, but was helpless when the case came to a showdown. They used him for their political purposes, but ignored him when caught in the trap.

Seek New Trial

It is claimed that the trio of "vote stealers" will seek a new trial. However, there is little doubt that any results favorable to the trio will be enjoyed by them. Jim Raines and Dr. R. B. Jackson, other members of the race in the same trouble, were convicted on similar charges and sought new trials to no avail. Raines is serving his term now. Jackson is at liberty. But it was reported last week that his bondsmen are leaping from him and his only resort now is the county workhouse.

Colored Jurors Not Excluded Says Fraud Case Judge

CINCINNATI, July 16—(ANP)—Declaring that no evidence had been produced to show systematic exclusion of Negroes from jury service, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals last week upheld the convictions of Dr. J. W. Beckett, 47, and Dr. A. Rossfi 52, both prominent Negro physicians of Memphis, for conspiracy to misuse the mails in defrauding the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Convicted a few months ago in the Federal court at Memphis, Beckett was sentenced to twenty-five years and fined $25,000, while Ross was given a twenty-one year sentence and fined $14,000. The cases attracted national contention.

Although a lily-white jury was chosen over the defense's protest, the appellate court stated Beckett and Ross "wholly failed" to produce substantial evidence of any systematic or arbitrary exclusion of Negro citizens from jury service in the trial court. The judges also declared they know of no statutory or constitutional mandate requiring proportional representation of racial, religious, political. or occupational groups groups upon jury lists within a judicial district.

The severity of the sentences give "more concern," the court declared, but since the sentences are power to change them.

Tennessee's Parole System Both Ridiculed and Praised For 'Good Time' Provisions

Criminal Sentenced To Life Term May Leave Prison After 13 Years Providing He Has Behaved In Model Fashion For That Length Of Time

From Nashville Bureau of
The Commercial Appeal

BY W. L. DURHAM, JR.

NASHVILLE, May 11.—Life imprisonment in Tennessee does not mean imprisonment for life. Neither does a prison sentence of from 10 to 25 years mean that a felon must spend one or two decades behind stone walls and steel bars.

A criminal sentenced to be incarcerated for life is eligible for parole in 13 years and seven months under Tennessee's indeterminate sentence law.

A murderer, convicted in the second degree and given from 10 to 25 years, may walk out of the penitentiary a free man in six years and one month.

A highwayman, found guilty of armed highway robbery and sentenced to from five to 10 years, may be liberated in 38 months.

A two to five-year term may be served in 18 months, and a one to three-year sentence, in the vernacular of the "big house," can be done "standing on the nose"—in nine months.

Only the criminal whose foray into crime brings down upon his head the full wrath of the law—a death or a 99-year flat sentence—fails to benefit by the provisions of the indeterminate sentence law, according to W. D. Lannom, secretary of the board of pardons and paroles.

Enacted in 1913

The indeterminate sentence law was enacted in 1913 and was modified by the Reorganization Act of 1923 and the Code of 1932. Under its provisions, the commissioner of institutions is given the power to release on parole prisoners who have served the minimum sentence provided by law for the offense committed, less time off earned by good behavior.

Under a law enacted in 1931, prisoners are allowed to earn one month "good time" during their first year of confinement; two months during their second year; three months each year from their third to tenth year of servitude, and four months each year for each remaining year after the tenth.

In addition to "good time," convicts who make the honor grade, who are model prisoners in every respect, are given a reduction of two additional months each year from their minimum sentence. Thus, the sentence of certain honor grade convicts may be reduced by six months each year.

For example, an honor grade prisoner serving a one to three-year term, would receive three months "good time," and would be eligible for parole in nine months after he entered the penitentiary. Likewise, a convict sent up for years may earn 47 months "good time" during his confinement and thus become eligible for parole in six years and one month.

Flat Sentences

A criminal who is given a flat sentence—whose term of confinement is definitely fixed at the time of his conviction—does not benefit by the flexibility of the indeterminate sentence law. Such a prisoner is, however, permitted to earn "good time." Thus, a convist given a flat five-year term, if he made the honor grade, would win his unconditional freedom in 38 months. A prisoner given a flat 99-year term—a rare sentence in Tennessee is entitled to be released after he has served 49 years and six months, provided he has made the honor grade every year.

Not all prisoners, sentenced under the indeterminate sentence law, are paroled at the expiration of their minimum term, according to Barton B. Brown, state commissioner of institutions, and John S. Fielder, state parole officer.

"The parole board makes a detailed study of the record of each prisoner before it acts upon his application for parole," Mr. Fielder said. "Fully 40 per cent of the prisoners who serve their minimum term and who thereby become eligible for parole are denied their freedom because the board does not believe them fit subjects to be turned loose upon society," he explained.

Working System

"The working principle of the parole system in Tennessee precludes wholesale failure of the plan," Mr. Fielder continued. "In the first place, there is a widespread and erroneous impression that prisoners are frequently paroled because they ask to be or because they have strong political influence behind them. Contrary to this impression, parole eligibility is fixed by law.

"A person convicted of a crime and sent to prison for an indefinite period, say from five to 10 years, must actually serve his minimum term of five years, less time off for good behavior. After his minimum time has been served, a prisoner's case automatically comes up for consideration before the parole board," Mr. Fielder said.

"When the application of a prisoner for parole comes up, members of the board examine his prison record, his past history and his future prospects. Then it is decided whether he shall remain in prison to serve his maximum sentence or be released on parole," he added.

From 500 to 700 prisoners are paroled in Tennessee each year, according to Mr. Fielder's records. Last year 514 convicts were granted paroles, only 67 of whom were returned to confinement during the period.

About one-half of those returned were convicted of new crimes, while the others were returned for technical violations of the parole law, Mr. Fielder said.

State authorities have conflicting opinions relative to the merits of the indeterminate sentence law and the state's parole system.

"Tennessee's parole system is one of the finest in the United States, and the indeterminate sentence law by all mans should be retained," according to Fielder.

"The present method of handling paroles is quite satisfactory," declared Warden A. W. Neeley of state prison.

"It was a mistake for the Legislature ever to say that a prison sentence did not mean what it said," insisted Roy H. Beeler, state attorney general. "It was a mistake to make a prisoner's record the basis for the length of his servitude. Instead of retaining a definite term for a criminal, the Legislature undertook to protect society by making the prison warden's job easier."

"The parole system is a joke," said W. Tyler McLain, district attorney general of Shelby County, in announcing his approval of the demand for repeal of the law, as expressed by public prosecutors of the state during a recent convention in Nashville.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
PRESS SCIMITAR

JUN 10 1936

The Constitution

Five negroes were arrested by orders of Chief Lee and fined $50 each by City Judge Carter on charges of "vagrancy" and "disorderly conduct."

"Vagrancy" of course is always a charge convenient for the police to bring against helpless people they want to arrest. The "disorderly conduct" was that they attempted to leave their house when police broke in on them.

Their attorney, Herman I. Goldberger, representing the tenant farmers' union, says he will appeal the case. We hope so.

These negroes had radical literature which Chief Lee didn't like. It is literature which most people don't like. But in America people have a right to read what they please. We do not preserve the Constitution by violating its fundamental liberties.

Memphis authorities should not be a party to efforts to drive men to work on terms not satisfactory to them.

When we deny liberty and civil rights which the Constitution gives to the humblest negro, we menace the liberty and civil rights of the most distinguished white citizen.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
June 9, 1936

DUNN, FARMER AND NEGRO GET STAYS

Electrocution Is Postponed Pending Appeal to State Supreme Court.

Two white youths and a negro, originally scheduled to be put to death at the state penitentiary at daybreak Wednesday, will be granted temporary stays from electrocution pending the ruling of the Tennessee Supreme Court on their cases.

William Farmer, 21, and Howard Dunn, 22, both of Knoxville, were convicted April 11 of the hold-up-murder of J. K. Milliken, 47, state market assistant, near Ninemile Hill March 16. They were captured soon after as they fled through Florida in Milliken's car.

Both sought to escape electrocution on grounds of insanity.

James Taylor, 23, negro houseboy, was sentenced to death April 21 when a jury found him guilty of criminally assaulting Mrs. Denver H. Perry at her home on Spring Valley Road at Donelson February 18. Taylor hacked Mrs. Perry with a hatchet so severely that both her wrists were nearly severed and she remained in the hospital two months.

Th negro was captured as he hid under a bed in his grandmother's house on Polk Alley the day after the attack. His appeal to the Supreme Court is based on a claim, overruled by Criminal Judge Charles Gilbert, that the state did not prove criminal assault before Taylor's written confession was introduced at the trial.

Crime - 1936

Tennessee

Oakland City, Tenn., Times
June 25, 1936

DOTSON BROTHERS CAUGHT AT STILL

Two brothers accused in the lynching of Baxter Bell, negro, last November, who escaped from the Dickson county jail at Charlotte on May 15, were again behind bars Monday. They are Jimmy and Jesse Dotson, held in default of $1,000 bonds each after being arrested by government agents while allegedly operating a still.

Chas, Love, agent of the alcohol tax division led a raiding party which nabbed a still in operation in Cheatham County about three miles from Kingston Springs. All at the still escaped except the Dotson brothers. Commissioner Lee Brock set their hearing for June 30

The brothers are supposed to have figured prominently in the lynching of the Bell negro last November. The negro allegedly insulted the wife of Luther Dotson, another brother, and was arrested. Then the four Dotson boys, Luther, Jimmy, Jesse and Clyde and a cousin Ollie Brown were charged with taking the negro away from the officers in Dickson county, and carrying him to Cheatham county where they killed him. When tried in Cheatham county they were all acquitted.

However, they were re-arrested and taken to Dickson county to answer charges of assault upon the officiers. They were convicted and given 11 months and 29 days each, but appealed. Pending their appeal Luther and Clyde posted bond leaving Jimmy, Jesse, and Ollie Brown in jail.

The three broke jail on May 15 and Brown is still at large.

SIXTH IS CONVICTED IN LOAN VIOLATION

Tennessee Negro Testifies Paying 520 Per Cent Interest on $12 Loan.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 24.—(AP)—A manager of a loan company was convicted by a criminal court jury here today of violating Tennessee's small loan act, after a negro testified she paid 520 per cent interest for a $12 loan.

The defendant, described by the attorney general's office as W. E. Nowell, was fined $37[illegible]. He was the sixth to be convicted this week in what District Attorney General McLain said was a drive against "loan sharks."

A negro said he borrowed $12 in March, 1934, and for the next two years paid $2.40 every two weeks, missing only occasional payments. He stopped paying, he said, upon the advice of the attorney general.

A negro woman said she borrowed $5 in 1934 and paid $1 each two weeks until January of this year. A total of 520 per cent.

State laws permit small loan companies to charge 6 per cent interest plus a 3 per cent per month investigation fee.

Federal Judge Rules Against Doctors On Negro Juror Plea

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The severity of the sentences give "more concern" the court declared but since the sentences are within statutory provisions, the appellate court found it has no power to change them.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
November 28, 1936

A Prowler on Parole.

They've nabbed the Belle Meade prowler at last. The man who robbed more than forty houses and gave this residence section a bad case of jitters for weeks, is a negro ex-convict—the same one who staged another series of robberies in Belle Meade and West End in 1931 and 1932.

Upon the occasion of his previous arrest we learn that this offender, who also has a murder to his credit, was sentenced to sixteen years in the penitentiary. That was four years ago.

How did it happen that he was so soon set free to return to his career of crime?

Despite his past record, he was made a beneficiary of the much abused parole system.

Society is due better protection from those who show every sign of being habitual criminals, and it is to be hoped that when prowler George Holloway again enters the penitentiary he will be confined as long as is legally possible.

It should not be necessary for the citizenry to sit up all night with shotguns to protect their homes from a burglar who ought, by all rights, to be safely held behind steel bars.

If more care and common sense were used in the granting of pardons and paroles the proportions of the crime wave, here and elsewhere, would be greatly reduced.

LEAKING AT THE BUNG

TENNESSEE CITIZENS INTERESTED in suppressing lawlessness among the younger folks of the state have recently launched a movement designed to provide more desirable quarters for Negro youths who are sentenced by our courts because of infractions of the law.

For many years youthful Negro offenders have been committed to an institution at Pikeville, described by those who have visited the wholly out of the way place, as crudely built, and more of a hovel than a place for the proper incarceration of human beings. Not only that complaints have been made charging that cruel treatment on the part of guards at the institution is the rule rather than exception; that the rocky, mountainous territory is not of any advantages for agricultural pursuits, and positively no trade or receiving is afforded the boys for learning a trade or receiving instruction in books.

With such a state of affairs existing, it is little wonder that there is such a high percentage of crime among the Negro racial group in Tennessee. The [illegible]

"reformatory," at Pikeville, does not compare in the slightest detail with the modern, comfortable and wholly adequate institution for white boys in Middle Tennessee. There these lawless youths have every opportunity to attend a well directed school and at the same time receive training in many different trades whereby they may be well qualified to step from the institution after serving their sentences, to a position that will enable them to take their places in society and earn a living at some worthwhile profession.

As our legislature convenes within a few weeks, the matter of correcting the state of affairs as exist relative to the care and training of youthful Negro offenders in our state should have immediate consideration. As it now is, the situation presents one of "closed at the spigot, yet leaking at the bung." Crime will not be checked by correcting the end of youthful white law violaters, and at the same time closing sight of the Negro youth. Negro boy committed to the Pikeville institution and detained there three or four months is almost certain a hardened criminal rather than an offender who, under proper institutional advantages, could have been reformed.

The committee from Jackson composed of Doctor I. L.

Crime - 1936

Tennessee.

Ashland City, Tenn., Times
June 25, 1936

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Hildreth, Attorney P. L. Harden, J. W. Lane, and [illegible] well known leaders of their section, should have the enthusiastic co-operation of all thoughtful Tennesseans, regardless as to race or class, in bringing about a change that will better the conditions surrounding the care of youthful Negro offenders in our state.

In the meantime, the matter of larger quarters and a more liberal appropriation for the Nashville Girls' Vocational School, should receive favorable consideration. Mrs. Frankie Pierce and her assistants at this institution have done a remarkable amount of good with what they had in the way of an appropriation, but that institution is altogether inadequate. If such counties as Knox will continue to ignore the requests for an institution to proprly care for incorrigible Negro girls, possibly our legislators will make some provision that will provide an institutions sufficient to save these girls from the downward path to crime.

Crime-1936. Texas.

NEGRO LIFE TOO CHEAP—

Four murders in a week in Dallas, and a young Negro physician shot in the back in Houston while attending to his professional business, all grow directly out of the fact that Negro life is regarded too cheaply. It is true that life among all peoples in America is not regarded as dearly as it is in some other nations, but Negro life is cheaper than all the rest.

A number of secondary things contribute to this condition; but the primary reason lies in not having the ballot.

Because we do not vote, public officials are indifferent to our welfare. Because we do not vote, conditions which breed crime and corruption are permitted to go unmolested more in the Negro community than in other neighborhoods.

Because we do not vote, we have no Negro policemen at all in some cities, and far too few in others over the state.

The way to make Negro life more dear and respected is to begin to awaken a new political consciousness in Negroes generally, and especially in the youth.

We must teach ourselves and our youth to want to possess and to use wisely the ballot so much, that we shall be willing to make great sacrificies to attain these ends; and be willing also to drive from the Negro community those who would keep us in the bondage from which we now suffer.

PITTMAN SEIZED BY GOV'T AGENTS

Head of Insurance Company Causes Arrest On Charges Of Blackmail and Extortion.

By Staff Correspondent

DALLAS, Tex., May 28—W. Sidney Pittman, publisher and editor of the "Brotherhood Eyes," widely circulated weekly tabloid, was arrested Friday by government authorities and held on two counts, "blackmail and extortion," and "sending obscene matter through the mails," causing one of the most sensational exposes of corrupt business methods made here in years.

Charges were brought against Pittman, dapper son-in-law of the late Booker T. Washington, and nationally known figure, by Dr. J. E. Walker, president of the Universal Life Insurance Company.

For a period covering two years Pittman carried a series of articles weekly, assailing the company with home offices in Memphis, Tenn., alleging that the company was in a State of insolvency, was organized in vioaltion of the insurance laws of Tennessee and charging flagrant immorality among the officers and home office workers.

Scathing Terms Used

In vulgar and scathing terms the names of Dr. Walker, M. S. Stuart, manager; M. W. Bonner, B. G. Oliver, Dr. J. B. Martin, W. H. Foote, and maany others connected with the institution were mentioned. Excerpts from late issues of the publication, which Pittman said had a weekly circulation of from three to fourteen thousand, when read aloud in court, brought blushes from the girl stenographer and many other spectators. Upon hearing the testimony of several witnesses, including Edward L. Snyder, State supervisor and J. B. Rogers, local district manager; Federal Commissioner L. R. Smith, recommended suspension of the publication and criminal prosecution of the defendant.

Demanded Large Sums

Arrest of the publisher is said to have been brought about by information supplied by Mr. Snyder, who, according to Dr. Walker, had made himself a close associate of Pittman's for several months in order to gain his confidence and secure data that ultimately resulted in Pittman's arrest.

In his testimony Mr. Snyder revealed that Pittman had demanded a sum of $1,000 to discontinue the publication of the damaging articles. The same demand was made two years ago, Snyder said, but was refused.

J. B. Rogers said that the accused man [illegible]ed of his attacks on la[illegible]ancellor Willis of the I[illegible]dge and that the attacks [illegible] the cause of the late fraternal head's death.

Faces Libel Suit

Pittman must also face a $50,000 libel suit filed against him by S. W. Green of New Orleans. His bond for the Universal case has been set at $3,000, and the publication of his "Brotherhood Eyes" has been suspended pending the outcome of the trial.

Houston Group Is Victim Of Racket

POLICE IMPOSTOR FAILS TO GET MONEY IN RUSE ON HOUSTON PARTY VISITING DALLAS FAIR

HOUSTON.—Reports reached here this week that Negroes traveling between South Texas and Dallas by highway were being victimized by an "officer" racket at the hands of unscrupulous whites.

A story related in The Informer office by Clarence Witson, 1207 Herkimer, of his recent experience on a return trip from the Texas Centennial exposition in a party of two women and four men is cited as a warning to Texas Negroes traveling by automobile.

According to Mr. Witson, the party was parked for the night just off the highway between Ennis and Corsicana when a white man approached in an automobile, told the colored people he was an officer, and told them he was arresting them for "vag."

The man ordered them to drive to the sheriff headquarters at Ennis, while he followed them. At Ennis, Witson said, the man got out of his car and told the group they could go free if they paid him seven dollars. When Witson told the white man they had no money, the man asked him for one of the suitcases out of their car. To this Witson refused, and challenged the man to arrest them and file a charge.

When the white man found he was unable to bluff the people into giving him anything, he called them "smart Negroes," and admitted that he was not an officer, and said he was engaged in a swindle racket which included real officers and individuals posing as officers, who preyed upon Negroes and Negroes only, visiting the Dallas exposition. Colored people are warned to be on their guard against these white racketeers, to challenge their authority, and not to give their money and valuables to escape arrest on "phoney" charges.

May Solve The Problem

Those who have almost given up hope of correcting the abuses of the pardon and parole system will await with interest the outcome of an amendment which the people of Texas are expected to vote into their constitution this fall.

The amendment is designed to remove the system from political control or influence. Specifically, it would provide for a parole and pardon board of three, one to be named by the governor, one by the chief justice of the court of criminal appeals, and the third by the supreme court of the state. This board would be given full power with the governor acting in an advisory capacity. The governor would be restricted to granting reprieves and commutations of punishment and pardons on recommendation of the board under rules set up by the Legislature.

The real merit of the amendment lies in the removal of the pardoning power from the absolute domination of the executive. By reserving to the Legislature the right to fix rules and regulations, the people can be assured of public hearings with notice to prosecuting and law enforcement officers. This will do away with the practice of granting secret pardons or what is the same thing, the granting of pardons without giving all interested parties a chance to be heard.

There is much work to be done in revamping the parole system. It works very well when applied to young offenders whose crimes are more mischievous than vicious, but any fixed system that permits seasoned killers and murderers to take advantage of the law has no place in a society infested as our society is with vice rings and overlords.

WOMAN TELLS OF ABUSE BY CITY POLICE

HOUSTON.—A woman told The Informer this week a story of being arrested without cause by a Negro patrolman on West Dallas avenue early Sunday, and of being grossly mistreated by white members of the city police department.

The officer, however, said the woman was creating a disturbance when he arrested her.

The woman, Mrs. Luella Galvan, of 3410 Burlington (rear), said she was cursed and struck several times at the police station, placed in a dark cell, and that her money was taken by attendants. She said a charge of drunk had been placed against her by the colored officer.

"I had been to visit some friends in Brookline addition," Mrs. Galvan said. "They carried me to West Dallas in their car and I got out to get a taxi to go home in. It was about one o'clock Saturday night.

"I had just bought a paper, and was standing near the corner of West Dallas and Heiner looking over it when a colored officer came up and told me he was going to arrest me. I asked him for what and he told me I was drunk.

"I thought he was joking because I wasn't doing anything, and I stood and read my paper while he called a patrol and sent me to jail."

The woman said an attendant of the city jail hit and cursed her several times as she was being taken from the desk to a cell, and said the man hit her and took several dollars out of her stockings after they reached the cell. Only part of the money was given back to her on her release Sunday afternoon, she said.

Officer Pete Clay, who arrested the woman, told an Informer reporter that she was drunk and was cursing and raising a disturbance on the street when he arrested her. He said he told her he was going to arrest her if she didn't stop, but that she told him "It's your duty. Go ahead and put me in jail."

"She leaned against a post and read a paper while I called the wagon," the officer said.

ADDITIONAL POLICE PROTECTION FOR THIRD WARD

Additional police protection in the third ward will do much toward eliminating the large amount of robberies and burglaries in that section. Not only have there been several street car hold-ups and two lives lost recently, but the burglaries at the Houston College for Negroes have become so numerous that it has become necessary to put iron bars ot the office windows. The college band implements, typewriters, and other equipment in the office have been among the loot.

The Third Ward Civic League should have the endorsement of the entire city in its efforts to secure additional police protection. It is reported that there is a bunch of young outlaws anging from 16 years up. The Colored citizens should intensify their educational campaign among the youths that crime never pays The Negro citizens in Houston have a pretty fair record of being law abiding. The News trusts that the younger generation with all of its educational advantages will not mar this record.

Crime - 1936

Virginia

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
February 1, 1936

The Case of Hazel Rose

WE HAVE no word of extenuation for the horrible crime in Buckingham County which cost the lives of two upright citizens. Certainly it was one of the most revolting murders which has occurred in Virginia in the memory of this generation.

It is merely our wish that the youth who is responsible be treated before the law as though he were white. If a 15 or 16-year-old white boy had committed the crime, would COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY WOOD have said: "If they don't give him death, they ought to burn the electric chair up"?

One can make up one's mind to do exact justice in a case of this kind without rushing to any preconceived conclusions concerning it. Is HAZEL ROSE of sound mind? Is it equitable to send a boy of 15 or 16 to the chair, even if he is thoroughly sane? We do not say that the answer to either of these questions must necessarily be in the negative. We merely say that the scales of justice must be kept evenly balanced.

HAZEL ROSE is a friendless, penniless, ignorant Negro. We are not endeavoring to arouse sympathy for him, or in any way to excuse the dreadful murder to which he has confessed. But we do feel that a lunacy commission should be convened, with a view to ascertaining whether he ought to go to an asylum, instead of to the death cell. We do feel it to be imperative that his years be taken into consideration in the final disposition of his case.

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY WOOD doubtless reacted in a very human way to this double slaying, when he first heard of it. Almost anybody might have said what he did concerning the electric chair, under the stress of grief and indignation. But now that he has had time to give the matter more reflection, we trust his attitude will be somewhat more judicial. Until we have further light on this case, we shall remain in doubt as to whether ROSE should.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
May 20, 1936

WHY NEGROES SHOOT—AND RUN

A Franklin county Negro was driving a worn-out automobile some dealer had succeeded in unloading on him for a price. When near the village of Boone Mill that old contraption failed to take a curve.

It is needless to say that when it reached the bottom of an embankment the only things that looked like an automobile were the motor and tires which survived the crash. We will now let the Northern Virginia Daily tell the rest of the story and comment:

"The Negro pulled himself from the wreckage and when the officer, who had seen the accident, called to him to halt, he ran. The policeman says he fired four times to frighten the Negro. One bullet entered the fleeing man's back and he died in about twenty minutes. The sheriff of the county placed the officer under arrest on a charge of manslaughter.

"Since there seems to be no question of the facts in the case, it is in order to say that some policemen have no more business with a pistol than an idiot or an imbecile. Shooting to frighten somebody is equally as dangerous and unlawful as driving an automobile too fast. The only time an officer is justified in using a pistol is when his own life or somebody else's is in danger."

There was not the slightest provocation or justification for this shooting. The man had done nothing worse than exceed the speed limit or drive carelessly, and if the car was as dilapidated as reported that would have been impossible. The plunge through space and shock of the impact probably caused the man to lose his head. It cost him his life.

We do not pretend to say that the officer would not have shot had the man he killed been white. Other officers have been no respectors of persons or color under similar circumstances. But is it unreasonable to presume that one reason why Negroes run if possible or shoot when cornered is the fear that they will be killed by the arresting officer? Is that the explanation of why Negroes run or shoot, or shoot and run?

CRIME RATE AND NEGROES

Richmond Va.

Several reasons can be assigned for the swollen crime rate among Richmond Negroes. Judge J. Hoge Ricks pointed out in a talk before the recently organized Citizens' Committee on Crime, that Negro offenders represent 50 per cent of the cases coming before Richmond Courts, while making up only 30 per cent of the population.

In the first place Negroes are arrested and hailed before the courts much more readily than are the whites. The same fact holds true in regard to convictions for alleged offenses.

In the second place, the high crime rate can be traced to inadequate policing of the sections of the city in which the Negro population resides. If the example of other southern cities with large Negro populations was followed and Negro police officers were employed, the crime rate among Negroes of Richmond would sharply decline. Good policing by persons having interest and pride in their task would serve as a powerful crime deterrent. At present, the duties of the few officers who patrol the Negro sections are purely perfunctory. They walk or ride the beat and pull the boxes. We cite for instance, the fact that the vicious and insidious "Numbers" racket thrived and thrives under their noses and that amusement places are operated in the section unmolested which would breed crime within any group.

In the third place, poverty and economic discrimination have caused a break-down in home environments, home influence and home training. Both fathers and mothers in Negro homes must work and pool their starvation wages to make ends meet while their children roam the streets or become habitats of crime-breeding dens operated by unscrupulous money-changers.

In the fourth place, the law enforcement machinery does not function effectively. The records of the criminal courts in cases where only Negroes are involved will sustain this fact.

In the fifth place, the promiscuous sale of alcoholic beverages in the Negro section boosts the crime rate. In this respect, the ABC Board by more diligence could assist the Citizens' Committee or Crime.

Lastly, Richmond's Jim Crow educational and recreational system offering as it does meagre facilities for Negroes contribute to the high crime rate.

The problem of lowering the crime rate among Negroes will never be solved by academic discussion indulged in by theorists. The only solution to the problem is exact justice and equality of opportunity for all regardless of race, color or creed; official diligence exercised by persons best equipped to serve the government, ignoring every consideration except that of efficiency and an utter abandonment of the Jim Crow psychology.

Lest we forget, Jim Crowism also breeds crime.

Jail Commitment In Virginia Found High

RICHMOND—Virginia's jail commitments last year were three times the number committed in the British Isles with a population of more than 50,000,000.

The commitments in Virginia—77,977—set an all time high for the state and twice as many for New York State exclusive of greater New York City, two and one-half times as many as in North Carolina, four times as many as in Maryland and three and one-half times as many as in West Virginia, it was revealed here last week.

Russell B. DeVine, supervisor of jail accounts of the State Department of Public Welfare said he could give no reason for the large increase but indicated that an urgent need for a probation system was necessary.

Out of 33,081 persons of the 77,977 committed, there were 16,113 white men, 1,683 white women, 12,421 Negro men, 2,867 Negro women.

On July 1 there was a total of 7,036 prisoners—4,022 in the state penitentiary and 3,014 in the county and city jails.

"Note on Negro Crime"

BELOW we are reprinting an editorial under the above caption from the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*. We might write columns on the subject, but after doing so, the case would be no better stated, nor the problem more logically and truthfully analyzed. If the forthcoming Richmond Crime Conference and all subsequent inquiries seeking the facts and the exact truth about Negroes as a factor in crime will approach the problem with the knowledge and candor displayed by the *Virginian-Pilot* we will be getting somewhere. The editorial follows:

"Negroes, who comprise one-third of Richmond's population, 'are responsible for one-half of the city's crime,' said Safety Director John A. Cutchins in a radio broadcast preparatory to the conference of his Citizens Committee on Crime.

"Negroes also comprise about one-third of Norfolk's population. They are probably also responsible for about one-half of Norfolk's crime. Does that mean that the Negro race is by nature more lawless than the white? It means, we think, nothing of the kind.

"The best of the world's authorities on racial characteristics and behavior reject the theory that one race is 'naturally' more given to crime than another. Environmental conditions and pressures, broadly speaking, are the determinants of criminal behavior, and not blood. Colonel Cutchins' generalization must be regarded in that light.

"Negroes, who comprise one-third of the populations of Richmond and Norfolk, are responsible for one-half of the crimes of these cities. Let us accept that statement as accurate. But let us put beside that statement another one—something like this:

"Although Negroes comprise one-third of the population of these two Virginia cities, they probably receive not more than one-tenth of the whole population's wages; the sections they live in probably receive less than one-tenth of the total municipal outlay for street, sewer and sanitary improvements; they probably receive less than one-fifth of the total municipal outlay for schools and less than one-thirtieth of the total municipal outlay for parks and playgrounds; they probably receive less than one-tenth of the total municipal outlay (exclusive of Federal aid which has recently altered the picture) for charity, social service and public health.

"There is no particular mystery about the excess Negro criminality. It is the by-product of an economic situation—one in which a population group, living close to the bare subsistence level in adverse, neglected and underserviced environments, is under relentless pressure to search in the jungles of the underworld for the relief surcease or profit that the upper world largely withholds from it. A Caucasian enclave subjected to the same circumstantial adversities would produce the same excess of crime—perhaps a larger excess.

"The problem of correction—as Colonel Cutchins himself admitted—is one of correcting conditions. It is not a problem of race or blood. We shall have normal Negro criminality instead of abnormal as soon as we have normal instead of abnormal Negro living conditions. Hardly before."

A Near Riot Averted When White Man Slaps Colored Girl

The slapping of a colored girl by a white man precipitated a tense situation at the corner of First and Broad streets Saturday night, Sept. 5, in which a riot was narrowly averted. The two persons were both alighting from a Fulton car, when the girl claims the white man stepped on her foot and made no apology. When she remonstrated with him for doing so, she alleges that he called her a vile name, that she told he was another, whereupon she says he struck her in the face and she retaliated by roundly slapping his face with a knitting bag which she had in her hand.

The white man, Henry Gill, claimed that the girl called him a vile name after he stepped on her foot and he struck her for doing so. He said that she struck him in return and that he was then seized by a "big Nigger" who almost choked him to death. After the principals in the disturbance had been taken into a nearby confectionery store and the magistrate arrived on the scene, officer Snead asked the white if he wished to swear out a warrant against the girl. This was done at the man's request before the girl had an opportunity to swear out a warrant against her assailant.

The Richmond PLANET being informed that the girl had been released on bail, retained counsel for her to prosecute the case when it came up for trial. It was found on Monday morning, however, when the case came up in police court that the girl's employer had employed a white attorney, Minitree Folkes, to represent her. When Judge Folkes saw there were no witnesses to corroborate any of the testimony, he characterized the case "a chit-chat case, if ever there was" nor were many of the spectators in the equivalent of dismissal.

The white man testified in court that the girl called him a vile name after he stepped on her foot and apologized. He stated, however, that he was suffering with a severe cold at the time and could only speak a little above a whisper, testifying that she might not have heard him. He testified that after she called him the vile name he told her not to do that again and, when she repeated it, he slapped her and she struck him in the face with the bag in return.

The girl, Miss Elizabeth Charity, 1115 St. John street, told the court that the man stepped on her foot and failed to apologize. She asked him if he knew he had stepped on her foot, she testified, and he called her a vile name and told her to keep her black feet out of the way. She said that when she told him that he was another of the things he called her he slapped her and she retaliated with the knitting bag she had in her hand. "Who heard all this?" asked Judge Folkes. No witnesses replying, the judge had the case marked "continued to." It was apparent that the girl's employer, a white woman, who was with her in court, was not satisfied with the decision of the court, white man who was a witness to the courtroom.

Discussing the case with citizens following trial of the case, the PLANET reporter was told by a citizen that if the color of the principals in the case had been reversed it would have hardly been termed a "chit-chat case" by the judge of police court. "If a colored man had slapped the face of a white woman, no matter what she had called him, even if she had spat in his face and applied all kind of vile epithets to him, it would hardly have been a "chit-chat case," the citizen averred. It was also pointed out by other citizens that such cases as these, when allowed to go unpunished, can lead to serious trouble, it being pointed out that when black men reach the point where they consider it needless to expect protection for their women from the courts there is only one course left for them to pursue. A whtie man who was a witness to hte disturbance, who told the reporter that he saw the man slap the girl, came to the reporter and divulged that information after the trial, but said he had not been asked to testify in the case. He refused to give his name, however, when requested to do so by the reporter.

Crime - 1936

Virginia.

Crime Causes and Rejected Remedies

Journal and Guide

RICHMOND'S Mayor BRIGHT having disapproved the Ministerial Union's request that colored policemen be used in certain designated colored sections of the city as a means of combatting crime, leaves the question in the realm of academic discussion, opening a pandora of political eccentricities and inconsistencies.

10-24-36

The peremptory refusal of the Richmond mayor to entertain the remedy, supported in his decision by at least one influential newspaper in the state, to date, is illustrative of one of the chief causes of an excess of crime in the human areas under consideration. On this phase of the question we quote Dr. H. C. BREARLY, native South Carolinian, now professor of sociology and psychology at Clemson College:

Norfolk, Va.

> "The exclusive control of the administration of criminal justice by the whites results in a distrust for 'the white folks' law' that directly increases the amount of homicide, both among Negroes themselves, and between the races....
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> "This lack of confidence in the machinery of justice markedly increases the number of interracial slayings. Whenever a Negro feels himself grieviously wronged by a white man and at the same time believes that an appeal to law will be worse than useless, the setting is prepared for an interracial homicide. Similarly, resisting arrest, even when charged with trivial offenses, frequently results from the Negro's distrust of the courts and his fear of the third degree. These affrays, involving officers of the law, moreover, make up a large proportion of the total number of slayings in which members of both races participate."

In the minds of leading members of the recent Richmond Crime Conference, including Judge INGRAM and the Ministerial Union, there arose, no doubt, a concept of the integration of the Negro with the process of law enforcement as one way of bringing about a higher respect for law, less fear of brutality on the part of policemen and more dependence upon the courts for the adjudication of wrongs.

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NOT PRACTICAL, opponents of the plan insist. The *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, for whose opinions we have the highest respect—although we cannot follow its reasoning in this case—phrases its objections as follows:

> "If the work of Negro policemen in Richmond were strictly confined to 'the Ward,' the colored area, it would be policed as it never has been before—or never has been except when the Negro Elks convened in Richmond and the colored people did their own policing. But a municipal policeman (who is, by the way, a state officer) has full authority everywhere within the scope of his authority. And it is the sworn duty of a policeman, on or off duty, to prevent violations of the law and to apprehend violators at all times and everywhere. Further, his superior officer has no legal authority to prevent him from performing that duty. We know of no way of swearing in a policeman for work in one area of a city alone."

We are not so sure that the exact letter of the constitution and the statutes would have its way if it was decided that it would be desirable to empower some Negroes with police authority. Every colored teacher in Richmond, and elsewhere in the state, is a municipal, county and state employee or office-holder. The colored teachers teach where they are assigned to teach. The system under which they work is operated in violation of the letter of both the state and federal constitutions and laws, in order to serve the purposes of political expediency. Policemen are assigned to "beats" and do their policing on these "beats" until they are assigned to some other tour of duty by their superior officers.

If any one should take the position that a colored police officer should turn around and face the other way if he should come upon a white highwayman sticking up a citizen on his beat, because the highwayman happened to be white, it is an absurd and ridiculous position to take, if by taking such a position one is thinking of upholding the social equality dogma, rather than upholding the sanctity of the law.

If any better evidence is needed that colored policemen in certain areas would have a salutary effect upon law observance it was furnished by the example—to which Richmond and former Richmonders delight to refer—the presence in the city of four or five thousand colored Elks from all parts of the country, when for nearly a week jim crow laws were virtually suspended and "colored people did their own policing." On that occasion there was no disorder, no arrests.

* * * *

THE Mayor of Richmond feels that to employ colored policemen in trying to reduce the high percentage of crime among colored people "would certainly jeopardize and probably impair good race relations." The mayor is laboring under an illusion. Good race relations between 75 per cent of the white and colored people in the South exists as a superficial condition because of the docility, patience, courtesy and other Christian virtues of the colored people, and their inherent ability to endure deep spiritual suffering with no outward manifestations. No human beings endowed with less of the elements of meekness, humility, forgiveness and hopefulness could endure the cruel injustices rigidly imposed upon them in the name of political and social expediency. "Good race relations," as such a condition exists, means oppression strongly entrenched, operating upon a people who have experienced the futility of violent resentment. The resentment is there, but it is passive. Those who talk and write about satisfactory race relations in the South, as applicable to 75 per cent of both races, are merely paying a high compliment to the spiritual virtues of the colored people. Some day this resistance may be overcome by the pressure of Communism or some other brand of doctrine of self-preservation.

* * * *

POLICEMEN alone will not solve the question of high crime incidence, although the suggestion made by the Richmond Ministerial Union would help. The main cause of crime is rooted deep in the economic fabric. Men will not starve peacefully. Men will not see their women and children starve if there is food to be had by fair or foul means. People who are forced to live in hovels because society does not like their color abide in an atmosphere that breeds crime. Any old worm will eventually turn under the heel of oppression if the opportunity presents itself.

We suspect that the whole trouble is that Virginia, along with the other southern states, held a constitutional convention some 30-odd years ago and removed whatever protection the Negro had as a citizen and molded a certain pattern for the Negro, which was, to all intents and purposes, to be permanent. Deprived of the ballot, of the right of jury service, of equality before the law, of voice or representation at the seat of government, the Negro was assigned to an inferior and insufferable place in society. Instead of becoming resigned to such a fate the Negro resolved to begin anew the struggle for citizenship status, by dint of hard work, sacrifice, saving, character building and education, and has given a good account of himself despite the most implacable obstacles that could be set up against him.

Too many of those who govern the state, the counties and cities of Virginia, and those who shape public sentiment are still thinking in terms of the wholesale expatriation of 30-odd years ago. They stubbornly refuse to abandon the patterns molded then; patterns that do not fit the Negro of 1936; patterns that are obsolete and out of place in a changing world. By clinging to those patterns they are encouraging crime. They are making criminals of men and women, who, if given a chance, would become social and economic assets to the commonwealth.

on the Negro's enthusiasm in the matter of cooperation in the problem of crime reduction. The Negro will cooperate, not by reason of the Mayor's general attitude but in spite of it."

"In the last analysis, Mayor Bright is opposed to the one certain way of reducing crime, for the co-operation and responsibility of Negroes are indispensable to any effective drive on crime among Negroes.

Dr. Hancock said that the Negro's crime rate was not actually as high in comparison with the crime rate among whites, as it appeared, adding that Negroes are often committed in instances where whites would be released.

He placed his hopes for the future and for the cause or race relations. of his race in the "rising generation It certainly has a depressive influence of young white men and women who

Hancock Says Mayor's Attitude Indirect Aid To Crime Increase

Richmond Planet

12-26-36

Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, pastor of Moore Street Baptist Church here, laid the blame for Richmond's high and unenviable crime rate definitely in the lap of the mayor of the city in an address delivered in Highland Park Methodist Church last Sunday night.

Giving lack of opportunity as the major cause of the high crime rate among Negroes and pointing out that "no remedy that overlooks this fact is worthy of serious thought," Dr. Hancock scored the attitude of the mayor toward economic opportunity for Negroes in Richmond. Dr. Hancock's address was the last of a series of four arranged as a follow-up of the recent crime conference held here.

"Largre economic opportunity would improve the Negro's environment which is the greatest and most potent cause of the higher incidence of crime among Negroes," the minister and professor of sociology and economics said: "for whenever the economic status of the Negro is raised he more nearly approaches the white man in the observance of law and order and in ideals."

Agreeing with other race leaders here, Dr. Hancock said that the crime rate among Negroes would be considerably reduced if Negro policemen were used in the Negro sections of the city.

"Although Mayor Bright," he added, "expresses his 100 per cent opposition to Negro policemen, the appointment of a Negro policeman would give the Negro a feeling of importance

Crime - 1936

Virginia.

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If any better evidence is needed that colored policemen in certain areas would have a salutary effect upon law observance it was furnished by the example to which Richmond and former Richmonders delight to refer—the presence in the city of four or five thousand colored Elks from all parts of the country, when for nearly a week jim crow laws were virtually suspended and "colored people did their own policing." On that occasion there was no disorder, no arrests.

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THE Mayor of Richmond feels that to employ colored policemen in trying to reduce the high percentage of crime among colored people "would certainly jeopardize and probably impair good race relations." The mayor is laboring under an illusion. Good race relations between 75 per cent of the white and colored people in the South exists as a superficial condition because of the docility, patience, courtesy and other Christian virtues of the colored people, and their inherent ability to endure deep spiritual suffering with no outward manifestations. No human beings endowed with less of the elements of meekness, humility, forgiveness and hopefulness could endure the cruel injustices rigidly imposed upon them in the name of political and social expediency. "Good race relations," as such a condition exists, means oppression strongly entrenched, operating upon a people who have experienced the futility of violent resentment. The resentment is there, but it is passive. Those who talk and write about satisfactory race relations in the South, as applicable to 75 per cent of both races, are merely paying a high compliment to the spiritual virtues of the colored people. Some day this resistance may be overcome by the pressure of Communism or some other brand of doctrine of self-preservation.

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POLICEMEN alone will not solve the question of high crime incidence, although the suggestion made by the Richmond Ministerial Union would help. The main cause of crime is rooted deep in the economic fabric. Men will not starve peacefully. Men will not see their women and children starve if there is food to be had by fair or foul means. People who are forced to live in hovels because society does not like their color abide in an atmosphere that breeds crime. Any old worm will eventually turn under the heel of oppression if the opportunity presents itself.

We suspect that the whole trouble is that Virginia, along with the other southern states, held a constitutional convention some 30-odd years ago and removed whatever protection the Negro had as a citizen and molded a certain pattern for the Negro, which was, to all intents and purposes, to be permanent. Deprived of the ballot, of the right of jury service, of equality before the law, of voice or representation at the seat of government, the Negro was assigned to an inferior and insufferable place in society. Instead of becoming resigned to such a fate the Negro resolved to begin anew the struggle for citizenship status, by dint of hard work, sacrifice, saving, character building and education, and has given a good account of himself despite the most implacable obstacles that could be set up against him.

Too many of those who govern the state, the counties and cities of Virginia, and those who shape public sentiment are still thinking in terms of the wholesale expatriation of 30-odd years ago. They stubbornly refuse to abandon the patterns molded then; patterns that do not fit the Negro of 1936; patterns that are obsolete and out of place in a changing world. By clinging to those patterns they are encouraging crime. They are making criminals of men and women, who, if given a chance, would become social and economic assets to the commonwealth.

Hancock Says Mayor's Attitude Indirect Aid To Crime Increase

Richmond Planet

Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, pastor of Moore Street Baptist Church here, laid the blame for Richmond's high and unenviable crime rate definitely in the lap of the mayor of the city in an address delivered in Highland Park Methodist Church last Sunday night.

12-5-36

Giving lack of opportunity as the major cause of the high crime rate among Negroes and pointing out that "no remedy that overlooks this fact is worthy of serious thought," Dr. Hancock scored the attitude of the mayor toward economic opportunity for Negroes in Richmond. Dr. Hancock's address was the last of a series of four arranged as a follow-up of the recent crime conference held here.

"Largre economic opportunity would improve the Negro's environment which is the greatest and most potent cause of the higher incidence of crime among Negroes," the minister and professor of sociology and economics said: "for whenever the economic status of the Negro is raised he more nearly approaches the white man in the observance of law and order and in ideals."

Agreeing with other race leaders on the Negro's enthusiasm in the matter of cooperation in the problem of crime reduction. The Negro will cooperate, not by reason of the Mayor's general attitude but in spite of it."

"Here in Richmond", he continued, "the stage is set for some notable advances. For instance, in the matter of having Negro policemen. The Negroes are ready, Colonel Cutchins is ready, Judge Ricks is ready, Judge Ingram is ready, the white ministry of the city is ready. Everybody seems ready as high ready except Mayor Bright.

There is not one intelligent Negro in this city who feels that Mayor Bright is opposed to the one certain way of reducing crime, for the co-operation and responsibility of Negroes are indispensable to any effective drive on crime among Negroes.

Dr. Hancock said that the Negro crime rate was not actually as high in comparison with the crime rate among whites, as it appeared, and that Negroes are often committed in instances where whites would be released.

He placed his hopes for the future and for the cause or race relations in the "rising generation It certainly has a depressive influence of young white men and women who

Position Of Mayor Bright Again Attacked

Journal and Guide

Dr. Hancock Hits At City Official In Crime Address

12-5-36

Journal and Guide Bureau

RICHMOND—"The high crime rate of the Richmond Negro can definitely be placed to his economic status," Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, of Virginia Union University, told a large congregation at the Highland Park Methodist Church, white, Sunday night, November 29. His address was the last in a series of four arranged as a follow up of the recent crime conference here.

Dr. Hancock said that the Negro crime rate not not actually as high is comparison with the crime rate among whites, as it appeared, adding that Negroes are often committed in instances where whites would be released.

Dr. Hancock said that Mayor Bright is opposed to the once certain way of reducing crime, that is the appointing of Negro policemen. He said that the appointment of Negro policemen would give the Negro the feeling of importance that would quicken his feeling of responsibility and cooperation that is impossible under the present circumstances.

It will be recalled that during the crime convention held here a months ago Mayor Bright stated he was "100 percent against the appointment of Negro policemen."

Dr. Hancock pointed out that Negro policemen were used in other cities to a great advantage.

"The stage is set here for Negro policemen: the Negro is ready, Col. Cutchins, director of Public Saftey is ready, Judge Ricks is ready, Judge Ingram is ready, the white ministry of the city is ready. Everybody seems ready except Mayor Bright." Dr. Hancock asserted that the action taken by Mayor Bright was most unfortunate for the Negro and Mayor Bright and for the cause of race relations.

Crime – 1936

West Virginia

POINT PLEASANT, W. VA.
REGISTER

MAY 26 1936

Members Of The White Race At Fault

IT IS a sad commentary on our social system when a Negro fails to stop after a fatal automobile accident because he is afraid of what white people might do to him. Such a thing happened during the weekend near Beckley. Proof the Negro meant to act in good faith is seen in the reported fact he later telephoned the police and told them of the accident.

It is likely the Negro had no immediate ground on which to base his fear but the fact he was afraid to stop and render assistance after the fatal accident certainly indicates the feeling of fear which apparently asserted itself in his subconscious mind. It is a shame the Negro race should live constantly under a dread of mob violence.

The Negro has the same constitutional rights members of the white race enjoy and if the Negro does not enjoy them it is the fault of white people, not the Negro.